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Nonaligned Ministerial Meeting Set To Open

DPRK Minister Arrives

BK1005090292 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 10 May 92

[Text] DPRK Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam arrived in Denpasar, Bali, today to take part in the ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Movement to be held in Nusa Dua, Bali. Kim Yong-nam is the first nonaligned country's foreign minister to arrive in Bali. The DPRK foreign minister and his six-man entourage arrived in Denpasar from Jakarta this afternoon aboard a Garuda Airlines plane.

Besides the DPRK foreign minister, the Zambian and Cuban foreign ministers are scheduled to arrive in Denpasar today. Kabul Budiono, an RRI correspondent, reported from Denpasar that several Jakarta- based ambassadors of nonaligned countries who will attend the senior officials' meeting on 12 May have also arrived in Denpasar. The ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the 73 nonaligned countries has attracted the attention of domestic and foreign press. As of this morning, about 200 reporters, including 28 Jakarta-based foreign correspondents, were registered at the press secretariat.

Cambodia's Ranarridh Arrives

BK1205070092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0411 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Nusa Dua (Bali), May 12 (ANTARA)—Cambodia's chief delegate to the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) ministerial meeting, Prince Norodom Ranarridh, said here Monday he had full confidence in Foreign Minister Ali Alatas' diplomatic efforts in NAM as he was a very experienced international figure such as bringing peace in his country.

We entrust Indonesia with the implementation of the May 12 to 15 meeting's results because we believe in the diplomatic skills of Alatas who has already given much contribution to the efforts to create peace in Cambodia, he said upon arrival at Ngurah Rai Airport, Denpasar, Bali, Monday afternoon.

Prince Ranarridh will attend NAM's ministerial meeting due to be officially opened by President Suharto.

He said that his country with a population of about 12 million and an area of 182,000 square kilometers had not yet [been] able to give many inputs to the ministerial meeting because it had just been active in NAM meetings after its absence since 1979.

But we'll take all the meeting's results as inputs for our country, he stressed.

He expressed hope that NAM would continue to cling on its principle and make more intensive efforts to reduce the gap between the North and the South and strengthen the existence of the South- South cooperation.

Asked about his expectations out of the ministerial meeting, he said no matter what happens NAM cannot separate economic problems from political ones.

Alatas along with his counterpart from France Roland Dumas is cochairmen of the Paris conference that has resulted in a success to bring all conflicting parties in Cambodia to a peaceful agreement signed in Paris last year.

Indonesia has also sent its troops to join the United Nations peacekeeping force in Cambodia.

Ranarridh's father Prince Norodom Sihanouk is one of the founders of the 31-year old NAM.

The Cambodian delegation to the coming meeting will comprise six members representing the Supreme National Council (SNC) which is a reconciliation body that Sihunouk chairs.

[words indistinct] members include representatives of the formerly four conflicting parties in Camboia—Sihanouk's FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], Son Sann's KPNLF [Khmer People's National Liberation Front], Heng Samrin's Khmer Rouge [as received], and the Vietnamese-backed Prime Minister Hun Sen's administration.

Alatas, Yugoslav Delegate Discuss Agenda

BK1105133892 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0905 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Nusa Dua (Bali), May 11 (OANA/ANTARA)—Foreign Minister Ali Alatas here Monday discussed agenda of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) ministerial meeting from May 12 to 15 with the Yugoslav chief delegate to the meeting, Branco Lukovac.

"The discussion was held as Yugoslavia is still the chairman of NAM, despite its domestic problems," Nana Sutresna, member of the Indonesian delegation to the meeting told ANTARA when asked about the two-hour meeting.

Alatas himself was not available for comments after the bilateral talks.

Sutresna, who is also Indonesia's permanent representative to the United Nations, said there were nine items likely to be included in the meeting's agenda, including NAM's evaluation on the role and function of the United Nations and several global economic problems.

In particular, he mentioned about the South-South cooperation which should be further promoted.

On some conflicts still prevailing today, like the one between Libya and some Western countries, he said the current meeting would only discuss substances, not conflicts.

He further said that the NAM ministerial meeting would be attended by two envoys of the UN secretary general whose names could not be revealed yet. [sentence indistinct]

Also arrived on the same day were the delegates of Gabon, Lesotho, Laos, Iran, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Mauritania, Tanzania, Tunisia, Venezuela, Vietnam, Colombia, Kenya, and Nicaragua.

Some 37 foreign ministers are expected to attend the meeting, the organizing committee said.

The foreign ministers expected Monday are Isidoro Malmierca (Cuba), Kamil Abu-Jabir (Jordan), Pascaline Bongo (Gabon), Ahmad Hassan Diria (Tanzania), Paul R. Berenger (Mauritius), and Nguyen Manh Cam (Vietnam).

According to the organizing committee, observers would also come from the PRC, Germany, Holland, and some Nordic countries.

The PRC delegates, to be led by the country's deputy foreign minister, would deliver a short speech during the opening of the meeting, ANTARA sources revealed. President Suharto is scheduled to officially open the meeting on May 14.

Yugoslav Crisis Not on Agenda

BK1205070292 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0406 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Nusa Dua (Bali), May 12 (OANA/ANTARA)—The situation in Yugoslavia or conflicts in different parts of the world will not be included in the agenda of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) ministerial meeting here from May 12 to 15 or in NAM summit in Jakarta in early September, Yugoslav chief delegate to the coming ministerial meeting Branco Lucovac said here Monday.

However, this does not necessarily mean that the participants to the meetings may not be interested in turning out positive and constructive suggestions within the framework of NAM for the solution of such problems, he told ANTARA and the state television network, TVRI.

Lukovac said through the Coordinating Bureau of NAM and NAM members in the UN Security Council, such suggestions, in fact, had been put forward.

On his Monday morning meeting with Foreign Minister Alatas, he said preparations for the ministerial meeting and the summit were the main issues aside from the current situation in Yugoslavia.

He did not go into the details of the talks except saying the important thing was that the coming ministerial meeting could be held with the support of Indonesia.

The meeting actually should be hosted by Yugoslavia, but Indonesia, which in September would chair the 31-year old movement for the next three years, took it over due to the domestic problems in the former country, one of NAM's founding fathers.

Asked about the main problems standing on the way to find a peaceful solution in his country, Lukovac said apparently not all sides are interested in peace talks.

Some, he went on, seem to prefer other means although he believed a dialogue or compromise would work better.

Lukovac further said that a compromise might be seen as a recognition of the current situation that Yugoslavia had become several republics.

It is a reality, but we could still build new bridges to bring the different independent entities in my country together, he said.

If such bridges could be built, the future Yugoslavia could be put, for example, within the context of Europe or the world properly, he said, acknowledging that a couple of years might be needed for that.

Since the last commemoration of the demise of Yugoslavia's father Josip Broz Tito, the republics of Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia- Herzegovina, and Macedonia have declared their separate independence.

Observers said Tito's death on May 4, 1980 also marked the vanish of the "glue" binding the country of the Slavs together.

UN Asia-Pacific Conference Opens in Hokkaido

OW1105025592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0240 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Sapporo, May 11 KYODO—A U.N. conference on economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region opened Monday for a five-day session at a hotel in Chitose, Hokkaido.

About 60 politicians, scholars, and U.N. officials from Japan and 15 other countries are attending the conference—billed as the "U.N. Chitose Forum"—to discuss ways of expanding trade among developing countries and promoting Western aid to such countries.

The conference, sponsored by the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and other organizations, is expected to adopt a "Chitose Declaration" when it closes Friday.

Chitose municipal authorities offered to act as hosts after UNCTAD's last general convention, held in Colombia in February, agreed to hold a conference to have detailed discussions on development problems in the Asia-Pacific region.

Japan

U.S. Vice President Quayle Arrives 12 May

OW1205123592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1201 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 12 KYODO—U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle arrived in Japan on Tuesday evening, vowing that America will work to maintain firm political and defense ties with its Asian ally into the 21st century.

Speaking to reporters at Tokyo's Haneda International Airport, Quayle said he plans to discuss ways of strengthening U.S.-Japan security arrangments and how "to give real substance to the U.S.- Japan global partnership."

"I am convinced we will be friends, we will be partners, we will be allies" in the coming decades, Quayle said.

The 45-year-old vice president is making his fourth visit to Japan, this time to attend an official celebration Friday marking the 20th anniversary of the return of Okinawa to Japanese sovereignty.

Quayle said that since the return of the islands, "U.S.-Japan security arrangements grew and played a major role in winning the cold war, Japan became an economic superpower. The Soviet Union disintegrated."

"I want to assure the Japanese people that there will be, and will continue to be, an American military presence (in Japan), as long as we're wanted," he said.

Outlining his agenda for talks Wednesday with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and Thursday with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Quayle said he also intends to address economic issues, including the stalled Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

The vice president said he wants to discuss how the two countries can follow through on their pledges under the Tokyo Declaration issued here in January by Miyazawa and President Bush "to make the economies of Japan and the United States open and competitive."

"I want to talk about how we can coordinate our economic policies to lead the world toward the next era of sustained economic growth," he said.

Quayle did not mention two items about which agreements are expected to be concluded during his visit: Japanese cooperation in extending assistance to Eastern Europe and measures to address the bilateral imbalance in the flow of technical data to Japan.

During his stay, Quayle will also have an audience with Emperor Akihito and meet with Shin Kanemaru, the powerful vice president of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Other scheduled events include receptions sponsored by business leaders, a meeting with students at Keio University, and a tour of U.S. and Japanese manufacturing facilities.

Officials said Japan is gratified that Quayle, who last visited Japan in May 1991, is taking time to visit again at such a key juncture in the campaign for the presidential election in November.

Officials said Quayle's visit will serve as a stepping stone to Miyazawa's anticipated trip to Washington before the July 6-8 summit in Munich of the seven major industrialized nations.

Watanabe Foresees Return of Some U.S. Bases

OW1205051092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0151 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 12, KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Tuesday the United States is likely to return several of the bases it maintains in Okinawa Prefecture to Japan within the year.

Watanabe told reporters after a morning cabinet meeting that some of the bases currently under bilateral negotiations would probably be returned within the year, while the U.S. is likely to ask Japan to show understanding of its desire to retain others.

Land used for U.S. bases and facilities, amounting to some 25,000 hectares, accounts for 11 percent of the prefecture's total area and 20 percent of Okinawa's main island.

Japan and the U.S. reached an agreement in 1990 over the return of 1,000 hectares, but the reversion has yet to be carried out.

U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle's visit here from Tuesday is not likely to be an occasion for the U.S. to announce anything concrete with regard to the bases, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Monday.

But the official said that Quayle, who is coming to attend ceremonies marking the 20th anniversary of the reversion of Okinawa to Japan, will probably speak on the general direction of U.S. thinking on the issue.

New Role of U.S. Forces in Okinawa Viewed

OW1105061892 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 10 May 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Unattributed article: "A Stepping Stone to Regional Conflicts"; part of an ongoing series entitled: "Series on Reversion to Japanese Rule: Special Feature on Okinawa, the Land of Bases"]

[Text] With the fading of the Soviet threat, the main task of the U.S. forces is now to respond to low-intensity conflicts. At the urban guerrilla warfare training facilities located in Onna-son and Ginoza-son, training on approaching conflict areas, and wiping out and suppressing the enemies is being held.

The Marine Corps has recently formed the Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Intelligence (SRI) Group to deal with low-intensity conflicts. The Third SRI stationed in

Okinawa has formed another reconnaissance detachment, and is now in the process of strengthening this unit.

Even the organizational setup and members of the SRI units have not been disclosed. It is a "ninja [samurais specializing in clandestine acitivities] unit" being added to the activities of the existing Marine Reconnaissance Battalion (RECON), and the Army's Special Forces, or Green Berets, and psychological warfare units.

Last March, the Okinawan SRI held a joint exercise for three weeks in the Philippines. SRI troops were dropped off from helicopters at sea about 500 meters from the shore, they landed with boats and conducted actual exercises on intelligence gathering necessary for combat operations, such as the enemy position and size. It is reported that the Philippines is cited by the Department of Defense as one area where regional conflict might erupt. In case of a coup d'etat and other forms of conflict, Okinawa will be the foremost frontline base for operations to suppress hostilities.

In the Defense Department's assessment of the Gulf war, the importance of prior intelligence gathering has again been emphasized. The "ninja units" are expected to be reinforced in the future.

The urban guerrilla-warfare training facility in Ginozason is located in the middle of a forest, where structures representing churches, hospitals, schools and residences have been built. The area resembles a setting in Central or South America, or the Philippines. "Secret training" is being conducted here, and outsiders are not only prohibited from taking photographs of the area, but also of making sketches or taking notes.

During the Gulf war, about 10,000 soldiers were allegedly dispatched from Okinawa. Recently, the organ of the U.S. Marine Corps Okinawa, the OKINAWA MARINE, has been running stories on the "heroes" who made contributions during the Gulf war.

U.S. military officers who assert the importance of Okinawa as a keystone claim that "without deployment from Okinawa, the Gulf war would have lasted five times longer." This reminds us of the fact that while the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty provides for "the stationing of U.S. forces for security in the Far East," Okinawa, in fact, serves as a base for deployment to regional conflicts in all areas of the world.

Okinawa after reversion to Japanese rule has been a base for frontal deployment with its area of defense extending to "the Far East, West Pacific, and Africa". It seems that the understanding of the Japanese Government, which supposedly allowed the stationing of U.S. troops for its "contribution to the maintenance of peace and security in the Far East," is that the activities of U.S. Forces Japan to deal with the "threat to the Far East" are not limited to the Far East area.

Today, as response to regional conflicts becomes the main task of U.S. Forces in its military strategy, Okinawa will continue to be a stepping stone for dispatches to conflict areas, as evidenced by the construction of the urban guerrilla-warfare training facilities here.

Okinawa Opinion Poll on Bases, Security, SDF

OW1105090792 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 11 May 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Report on public opinion poll conducted by OKINAWA TIMES and ASAHI SHIMBUN in Okinawa on 19 and 20 April; the poll surveyed 1,000 Okinawans on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Okinawa's reversion to Japanese rule]

[Text]**Dealing With U.S. Military Bases**

A growing number of people are calling for a reduction of U.S. military bases. In anticipation of the possible return of the bases, many autonomies are planning projects for after the return. We asked how bases should be dealt with in the future.

Among the respondents, 64.7 percent called for "phased reduction" of bases, while 20 percent of those polled called for "immediate removal of the bases." Thus, a little over 80 percent of the total number of respondents called for the return of land used by the U.S. military. Among the respondents, 11 percent favored "maintaining the status quo" by keeping bases as they are. Therefore, there are an overwhelming number of calls for reduction or removal of U.S. military bases that cover one-fifth of the main island of Okinawa.

This tendency is common to people throughout Okinawa. People in Naha, in particular, are more eager to see a reduction in the bases than people in other municipal areas. Since income earned by people connected with military bases accounts for only 6 percent of total income in Okinawa Prefecture, the poll shows that people consider bases an obstacle to urbanization.

Moreover, 53.5 percent of the respondents said it is "undesirable" for U.S. military bases to concentrate in Okinawa, while 38.8 percent said it is "unavoidable."

U.S. Military Strength

Today, with the end of the cold war, global structures are shifting toward multipolarization. Under these circumstances, the survey also asked Okinawans'—whose island is the keystone to the Pacific—for their opinions on the need for a U.S. military presence.

Respondents were asked to choose whether U.S. military strength is needed in Asia.

The outcome indicated that 49 percent of the respondents said that the U.S. military presence is "unnecessary," a figure that exceeded the 36.3 percent who deemed it "necessary." Meanwhile, 14.5 percent of the respondents chose "other or no answer."

There are no big differences on this question. The outcome seems to reflect uncertain situations in Korea, China, and the Philippines. But over 70 percent of those who said "unnecessary" and those who chose "necessary" called for phased reduction or withdrawal of U.S. military bases on Okinawa.

Although there is some sense of independence among Okinawans as to the influence of the U.S. military, Okinawans seem to oppose the presence of U.S. military bases on Okinawa.

Easing of Tensions in Asia

How do Okinawans see military and political developments in the Asia-Pacific region under the changing world situation? The poll asked whether the ongoing shift in U.S. military strategy toward coping with low-level conflicts is easing tensions in Asia.

Of the respondents, 50 percent replied that easing tensions in Asia is "progressing," while 31.4 percent said "they did not think so." Declining to answer the question were 18 percent. Thus, about 50 percent of Okinawans surveyed thought that the region is becoming more stable. The end of the cold war appears to have engendered this view.

Respondents between the ages of 20 and 40 took an optimistic view that the easing of tensions in Asia is "in progress," while respondents over 50 denied progress in easing regional tensions. By area, many respondents living in northern Okinawa replied that tensions continue. They are believed to have taken this view because of U.S. military exercises in Okinawa, particularly live-shelling exercises across the prefectural highway conducted five times since the beginning of the year.

Assessment of Security Treaty

Now that the threat from the former Soviet Union is gone, brisk debates have been held on the need to review the Japan-United States Security Treaty, the basis of the Japanese-U.S. military alliance. Okinawans were polled on the treaty's contributions; it has been the basis for justifying the continuing presence of U.S. forces in Japan. Of those polled, 40.7 percent said that the "treaty is no longer of any use," while 24.8 percent denied that the treaty contributed to Japan's security; 34.2 percent said "I cannot answer the question" or "I cannot answer either."

By political party, 60 percent of the respondents, who expressed support for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, rated highly the treaty's contributions to Japan's security. A little more than 50 percent, who expressed their support for the opposition Social Democratic Party of Japan and other reformist parties, posited a negative view on the treaty's contributions to Japan's security. In this way, respondents who supported the main opposition party and other reformist parties were found to be split in their views on the treaty's contributions to Japan's security. As top labor leaders in Okinawa voice their approval of the treaty, the number of Okinawans who approve of the treaty is growing.

Asked if a climate is being created that will foster support for the treaty, a substantial number of respondents said: "I cannot answer the question" or "I cannot answer either."

Self-Defense Forces [SDF] and Peacekeeping Operations

As Self-Defense Forces activities, including the emergency airlift of patients from isolated islands, increase, anti-SDF feelings among Okinawans are found to have taken a conspicuously favorable turn. Asked about the SDF's future on Okinawa, only 6 percent said that the "SDF in Okinawa should be further strengthened," while 49 percent of them said that the "SDF should remain as is." In this way, 55 percent approved the SDF's presence on Okinawa.

Meanwhile, 27 percent said that the "SDF should be reduced," while 11 percent said that the "SDF should withdraw from Okinawa." In this way, 38 percent rejected the SDF's presence on Okinawa. Compared with the outcome of last year's public opinion poll, the number of Okinawans approving the SDF's presence has grown.

There was differentiation among the sexes as to approval of the SDF presence on Okinawa. Of the male respondents, 56 percent said that the "SDF should remain as is," while 6 percent said that the "SDF should be further strengthened." Of the female respondents, 44 percent said that the "SDF should remain as is," while 5 percent said that the "SDF should be further strengthened."

Asked about the overseas dispatch of the SDF, 30 percent said that the "SDF should not be dispatched abroad," while 44 percent said that "Japan should make nonmilitary contributions." Supporters of "Japan's participation in the UN peacekeeping forces [PKF]" totaled 15 percent, with 2 percent expressing support for "Japan's participation in multinational forces."

By sex, 27 percent of the male respondents and 33 percent of the female respondents said that the "SDF should not be sent abroad." Their combined rate exceeded support for "Japan's participation in the PKF and multinational forces." However, 48 percent of the male respondents and 41 percent of the female respondents supported "Japan's nonmilitary contributions."

Special Law on Conversion of Military Base Land and Forced Use of Land by U.S. Forces

Okinawa Prefecture has asked the government to enact the Law on the Conversion of Military Base Land with the aim of demanding the return of land now being used by U.S. military bases on Okinawa, utilizing the land when it is returned and compensating landowners.

Asked what they think of the law, 77 percent said that the "law is necessary," while 11 percent said "I do not think it necessary." In this way, it turned out that the Okinawans want the law to be enacted as an effective means of resolving the presence of military bases on Okinawa.

By political party, 8 percent of those polled, who expressed their support for the LDP, replied that the "law is necessary." In this way, Okinawans, regardless of political party affiliation, hope for establishment of a legal means through which military bases can be scaled back and land can be put to effective use once returned.

Asked about the expropriation of land against the will of its owners for military use, 61 percent "opposed" the forced expropriation, while 9 percent "supported" it; 16 percent said "it is unavoidable." Thus, about 60 percent of the Okinawans polled expressed negative views on the forced land expropriation. Of these, 50 percent, who said in the poll that the "Japanese-U.S. Security Treaty has served Japan's security," expressed their "opposition" to the forced land expropriation.

The outcome of the poll revealed the fact that the Okinawans feel a "sense of incongruity" toward the forced expropriation of land for the use of military bases amid growing doubts about public hearings by the Land Expropriation Commissions and progress in the easing of East-West tensions following the end of the cold war.

Imported Car Sales Fall 16th Consecutive Month

OW0805041392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0331 GMT 08 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 8 KYODO—Sales of imported vehicles in Japan fell in April for the 16th consecutive month, the Japan Automobile Importers' Association reported Friday.

The association said sales of imported passenger cars and commercial vehicles in April amounted to 14,994, down 14.7 percent from a year earlier.

The association attributed the declining sales to tighter parking regulations in major cities and the effects of the economic slowdown, which has raised consumer worries over purchases of new cars.

Passenger cars accounted for 14,686 of the imported vehicles, down 15.2 percent from the same month last year, while sales of trucks and buses amounted to 308 vehicles, up 19.8 percent.

Sales of passenger cars and commercial vehicles for the four-month period from January through April amounted to 54,814, down 16.1 percent from 65,323 vehicles sold in the same period of last year, the association said.

By region, sales of vehicles from Germany, Sweden, France, and some other countries declined, the association said.

Showing an increase were sales of U.S.-made vehicles, including those produced by Japanese automakers operating in the United States, and those of Italian cars, the association said.

Toyota To Boost U.S. Output of Small Trucks

OW1105000292 Tokyo KYODO in English 2328 GMT 10 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 11 KYODO—Toyota Motor Corp. will boost annual production of its Hilux small trucks in the United States to 100,000 vehicles a year in August, the NIHON KOGYO SHIMBUN reported Monday.

The figure represents a 2.5-fold rise from the current output, it said.

The truck is being turned out at new United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. in California, a joint venture between Toyota and General Motors Corp., along with the 1600 cc Corolla and GM's Prizm passenger cars.

Toyota exported 169,472 Hilux trucks during 1990 and 172,149 in 1991, up 1.6 percent from 1990.

The Japanese auto giant hopes higher production of the truck in the U.S. will help rectify the trade imbalance between the two countries, the daily said.

Machine Tool Orders Show First Fall in 5 Years

OW1105071092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0623 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 11 KYODO—Orders for machine tools received in the year ended on March 31 fell 7.6 percent from the previous year for the first year-on-year decline in five years, an industry association reported Monday.

The Japan Machine Tool Builders' Association said fiscal 1991 orders were worth a total of 1,011.38 billion yen.

Association officials said the fall stemmed in part from a cutback in capital investment by automakers amid slumping automobile sales.

Orders from automakers plunged 34.8 percent from the previous year to 195.88 billion yen.

Those from general machinery makers, including subcontractors for automakers, posted a 27.27 percent year-on-year fall to 309.79 billion yen.

Orders for machine tools received in March, however, rose 15.5 percent from the previous month to 73.14 billion yen to register the second consecutive month-to-month rise.

The officials said machine tool orders appear to have bottomed out, with the government moving to speed up implementation of its public works outlays in the first half of the current fiscal year.

Miyazawa: Time 'Ripe' for Return of Islands

OW1205095292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0926 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 12 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Tuesday that the "time is ripe" for resolving a dispute with Russia over four Russian-held islands off of Hokkaido, but said Tokyo would apply its ingenuity to facilitate their return.

"I'm betting my life on this. If we don't resolve the (island dispute) now, then it won't be resolved," Miyazawa said in an interview with Fuji TV network taped for broadcast on Thursday.

Describing the resolution of the dispute as one of his cabinet's top priorities, Miyazawa said that both Russia and Japan share the view that good bilateral relations are necessary if Russia is to rebuild.

Japan has said it will hold off on offering major aid for Russia's beleaguered economy until the dispute over Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan and the Habomai islets is resolved.

Miyazawa also said, however, that Japan would have to use its "ingenuity" to create conditions that will facilitate Moscow's decision to return the territory, seized by the Soviet Army at the close of World War II.

Miyazawa described his visits last month to France and Germany to seek support for Japan's demand that the islands be returned as part of the groundwork aimed at resolving the over four-decade-old dispute.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin is slated to make his first visit here in September.

In the interview Miyazawa also expressed optimism that he will win parliamentary approval for legislation enabling Japan's Self-Defense Forces to join in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party, and opposition Komeito and Democratic Socialist Party are discussing possible modifications of the legislation that would pave the way for its approval in the opposition-dominated House of Councillors.

The government-sponsored bill was passed by the House of Representatives last December.

First Visa-Free Visit to Northern Islands Noted

OW1105015692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0110 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Nemuro, Hokkaido, May 11 KYODO—A group of 45 Japanese embarked Monday on the first visa-free visit to three of four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido that Japan is campaigning to have returned to its sovereignty.

The group, led by Kuniya Nakata, the head of the Hokkaido Prefectural Government's northern territories issue division, departed from the Hokkaido port of Hanasaki aboard the 352-ton cruiser Coral White.

The voyage is the first time for any Japanese to visit the northern territories, as Japan calls the islands, without the need for visas or passports since the end of World War II, when the Soviet Union seized the islands, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The group includes 10 officials from the Japanese Government and the Hokkaido Prefectural Government, former residents of the islands, journalists, and officials of civic groups promoting political campaigns for the return of the islands, the officials said.

Their visit followed a similar trip in April by Russian residents of the four islands, who visited Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island, without visas.

The mutual visa-free visits were stipulated in an October 1991 agreement between the Japanese and then Soviet governments in a bid to settle the territorial dispute.

Under the agreement, those making the reciprocal visits are required to carry only identification documents issued by their respective governments.

The accord, which was proposed by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, was inherited by the Russian Government.

Russia has pledged to live up to all the international treaties and accords inked by the now-defunct Soviet Government following the December 1991 breakup of the union.

The group will visit three of the four islands—Kunashiri, Shikotan, and Etorofu—before returning to Japan on May 17, the officials said.

They will lodge aboard the cruiser during the weeklong voyage and will gather information on accommodation, transportation, and telecommunications on the islands to open the way for increasingly frequent visits by former Japanese islanders, the officials said.

The visitors will also have friendship meetings with the residents of the islands, they said.

A total of seven tour groups for reciprocal visits are being organized to take place by this fall—five by the Japanese and two by the Russians, they said.

The Japanese Government has banned visits by Japanese citizens to the islands on the grounds that obtaining visas from the Soviet or Russian Governments would be tantamount to recognizing foreign sovereignty over the islands.

Russians Welcome Former Residents

OW1205141292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1336 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Yuzhno-Kurilsk, Kunashiri, May 12 KYODO—Russian residents on this disputed northern island off

Hokkaido welcomed a group of 45 former Japanese islanders, government officials, and journalists Tuesday with singing, dancing, and homemade cookies.

The Japanese group, the first to visit without visas, were welcomed by some 500 Russian islanders at a party in a public square in Yuzhno-Kurilsk.

The delegation, led by Kuniya Nakata, head of the Hokkaido Prefectural Government's Northern Territories Issue Section, enjoyed choir singing and dancing by Russian women clad in colorful costume.

The delegation visited an elementary school and a museum with old Japanese farming instruments on display, reviving nostalgia among former residents' about their prewar lives on the island.

Kunashiri and three other nearby islands were seized by the Soviet Army immediately after Japan's World War II surrender in 1945. Most Japanese islanders were forced to evacuate to mainland Japan.

At the elementary school, Russian teachers welcomed the delegation by serving homemade cookies and cakes.

The group is on the first leg of a weeklong visit that began Monday. They will depart for another disputed island of Etorofu on Tuesday night and will arrive Wednesday morning.

The four islands are the cause of a bitter four-decade diplomatic row between Japan and the former Soviet Union.

Mutual visa-free visits by Russian and former Japanese islanders were first proposed by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in April 1991 and finalized last October.

Kaifu Leaves for PRC Talks With Li, Jiang

OW1105042092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0355 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 11 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu left for Beijing on Monday on a four-day trip for talks with Chinese Premier Li Peng and Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin.

Police Detain 35th 'Illegal' Chinese Near Port

OW1105030892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0224 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Wakayama, May 11 KYODO—Police arrested a Chinese man walking along a highway near the port town of Koza in Wakayama Prefecture early Monday, bringing to 35 the number of Chinese arrested since Sunday on suspicion of illegally entering Japan.

The latest Chinese arrested was found walking along route 42 in the town of Kushimoto adjacent to Koza, where the 34 Chinese are believed to have landed around 3 A.M. Sunday morning, police said.

Police began searching for the men after being alerted by local residents.

The ship which brought the men from China was not found. Police believe it moored off the coast while they reached the shore aboard rubber dinghies.

They said they are still searching for other Chinese illegal entrants after being told by those so far arrested that two other ships had left the southern Chinese port city of Fuzhou on May 3 along with the one that brought them to Wakayama.

Patrol boats and helicopters of the Maritime Safety Agency are also intensifying their search in waters off the southern coast of the Japanese main island of Honshu for the three boats, each of which is thought to have brought 30 to 40 Chinese from Fuzhou, police said.

The detained men said others who had been with them evaded a police search and reached the railroad station in Kushimoto, where they would have taken a train to Osaka, according to police.

They are believed to have telephone numbers of contacts in Tokyo who are part of an organized ring involved in smuggling illegal immigrants into Japan, police said.

Ministry Approves Aomori-Harbin Charter Service

OW1105120892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1124 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 11 KYODO—The Transport Ministry has approved a new charter service between Aomori and Harbin while Japan and China will open aviation talks in Beijing Tuesday, ministry officials said Monday.

The officials said China Northern Airways plans to operate one round trip each between Harbin and Aomori on May 18 and 21 to carry Japanese tour groups and officials from Heilongjiang Province in northern China.

The officials said the three-day aviation talks will focus on ways to meet the growing demand for travel between the two countries.

Japan and China now are linked by two designated airlines from each country—Japan Airlines, All Nippon Airways, Air China, and China Eastern Airways.

The Chinese airlines serve Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuoka, and Nagasaki and the Japanese carriers fly to Beijing, Shanghai, and Dalian.

The officials said Xian, a strategic city in Shanxi Province in central China, and Nagoya, a business center in central Japan, may be added to the list of entry ports.

Japan will propose a new route to Europe through China and the Russian republic of Kazakhstan, the officials said.

Ambassador to Yugoslavia Remains in Tokyo

OW1205122492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1058 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 12 KYODO—Japan has not decided whether to return its ambassador to Yugoslavia following a decision by the European Community (EC) on Monday to recall its ambassadors to that country, Foreign Ministry sources said Tuesday.

Officials said Ambassador Taizo Nakamura has been in Tokyo on home leave for the past few weeks.

"We haven't taken any specific steps in conjunction with the European Community's decision," spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told foreign journalists.

The foreign ministers of the 12 EC countries decided in Brussels to recall their ambassadors from Belgrade after assessing the federal army's role in hostilities involving the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

They also moved to expel Yugoslavia from the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and decided not to recognize for the time being the newly proclaimed United Republic of Yugoslavia comprising Serbia and Montenegro.

Hanabusa said Japan is also not ready to recognize the new Yugoslavia, which claims to be the legal successor to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The spokesman indicated that Japanese recognition would be opposed by other former Yugoslavian republics which have become independent.

"As far as we know, some of them or all of them do not accept the claim by the new federation," he said.

Sources noted that such countries as Austria, Hungary, and Germany are also strongly opposed to the United Republic of Yugoslavia.

Tokyo Plans To Provide Loans to Eastern Europe

OW1205050992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0243 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 12 KYODO—The government-backed Export-Import Bank of Japan will provide up to 300 million dollars in loans to Eastern Europe as part of joint Japan-U.S. aid to the region, financial sources said Tuesday.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will tell U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle of the plans during his four-day Tokyo visit starting later Tuesday, the sources said.

The planned loans will be untied, and their use will not be limited to purchasing imports from Japan, they said.

They said the loans will be part of joint efforts by Japan and the United States under a "global partnership" program between the world's two largest economic powers. U.S. President George Bush proposed the joint aid when he visited Japan in January.

The sources said the Export-Import Bank will initially extend loans of 50 million dollars each to Czechoslovakia and Hungary and will be ready to expand the aid to the two countries to 100 million dollars each eventually.

The bank will also appropriate 100 million dollars for aid to other East European countries, they said.

The Japanese aid will be given in cooperation with the 450 million dollar U.S. "enterprise fund" for investment in Eastern Europe, the sources said.

They said the aid is expected to be used for loans to private enterprises in Eastern Europe through central banks in the region.

Substantial Funding Hike for UNTAC Urged

OW1105125192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1212 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 11 KYODO— Social Democratic Party (SDP) Chairman Makoto Tanabe on Monday urged Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to pledge 900 million dollars in Japanese assistance for United Nations Peace Operations in Cambodia, an SDP official said.

The sum is equivalent to one-third of the projected budget for the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

Miyazawa replied that he would not be confined to the formula that would have Japan contribute some 12.5 percent of the funds in proportion to Japan's overall UN contribution.

The prime minister also said he would consider a proposal by Tanabe that he visit Cambodia to assess how Japan could best contribute to economic reconstruction of the war-ravaged nation, the official said.

Tanabe further called on Miyazawa during the half-hour meeting to avoid moving hastily to pass legislation enabling Japanese military personnel to join UN peacekeeping operations in Cambodia.

He also recommended Japan cooperate in peace and reconstruction efforts in the Southeast Asian country under current laws, the officials said.

The No. 1 opposition party's recommendations were based on the findings of an SDP delegation which visited Cambodia last month.

Miyazawa acknowledged that various opposition parties are hoping to revise the bill, but said he hoped to see the legislation passed in its current form, the official said.

The bill was passed by the House of Representatives in December and is currently being debated in the opposition-dominated House of Councillors.

The SDP is opposed to sending Self-Defense Force personnel overseas to assist UN peacekeeping missions.

Miyazawa said, however, that it would be difficult to meet Tanabe's request for the dispatch of police and civilians to Cambodia without the necessary legal framework, the official said.

Tanabe also sought government assistance for a center to remove landmines, as well as cooperation in providing some 300,000 radios needed to inform Cambodians in advance of elections planned for next year, the official said.

Turning to the 20th anniversary of the return of Okinawa from U.S. administration later this week, Tanabe asked Miyazawa to take new steps to reduce the size of U.S. military bases that occupy a large portion of the main island of Okinawa.

Akashi Gives Views on Cambodia to Committee

OW1205051392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0452 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 12 KYODO—The top U.N. administrator in Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, urged Japan Tuesday to provide personnel assistance to U.N. peacekeeping operations, in addition to financial contributions.

Akashi, the head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), presented his views at a meeting of the House of Councillors special committee on international peacekeeping operations.

Akashi noted that financial contributions are the "basic" element of Japan's role in the U.N. peacekeeping operations.

But he said a shortage of personnel is now conspicuous as the number and scale of the operations grows. He added he would like Japan to send as many personnel "of good quality" as possible.

Akashi also told the special committee that the U.N. operations do not involve any resort to arms and said there will be no dispatch of personnel to areas in a state of hostility.

He called for Japan's active participation, saying the operations do not exceed the constraints of Japan's Constitution.

"The international community is waiting to see what kind of leadership Japan will show in Cambodia," he said. "And no one in Cambodia is opposed to Japan's participation in the peacekeeping operations."

But, citing his position as an international public official, he refrained from offering his views on the possible role of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF).

The government-proposed bill on Japan's participation in the U.N. peacekeeping operations would empower Tokyo to send the SDF overseas.

Akashi also called on Japan to consider establishing a center for the storage of aid materials, and training centers.

Akashi Suggests UN Stockpiling on Okinawa

OW1205122992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1144 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 12 KYODO—The top United Nations administrator in Cambodia asked Japan Tuesday to finance the creation of a stockpiling facility in Okinawa of UN supplies to Cambodia and other war-torn countries.

Yasushi Akashi, chief of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), made the request during a meeting with Keigo Ouchi, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP).

Akashi also asked for Japanese cooperation to realize his proposal of creating a training center, also in Okinawa, for personnel to join UN peacekeeping missions, DSP officials said.

A stockpiling facility would promote not only UN operations in Cambodia but possible missions in other Asian countries, Akashi was quoted as saying.

Akashi cited Myanmar [Burma], the Korean peninsula, and Kashmir—the northern parts of India and Pakistan where clashes have taken place since 1947—as places where such UN peacekeeping missions may be needed.

He said he favors Okinawa as a site for the stockpiling facility as the southern Japanese island is in a strategic location for greatest access to other Asian countries.

He said the United Nations has a stockpiling facility in Italy where vehicles, tents, and other material are kept for emergencies.

Akashi called for Japan to contribute 200 million dollars to finance construction of the facility and a training center as part of its proposed financial contributions to UN peacekeeping, the officials said.

That figure should come from the proposed 800 million dollars in financial contributions which Akashi has asked Japan to make to UNTAC, they said.

The 800 million dollars would account for one third of the projected cost of UNTAC's activities.

Ouchi told Akashi the DSP will back up the UNTAC chief's proposals.

In a meeting with Yuichi Ichikawa, secretary general of Komeito, Akashi said he would accept nonmilitary contributions to UNTAC from Japan although full-fledged participations in all aspects of the mission is preferable.

Ichikawa told Akashi that Komeito, Japan's No. 2 opposition party, wants to limit Japanese peacekeepers' activities to such noncombatant fields as transportation, telecommunications, medical services, and hygiene.

Komeito has urged the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to agree to the limits so as not to breach the pacifist Constitution.

Akashi was quoted by Komeito officials as saying, "although it is desirable that Japan join in all fields of (peacekeeping) activities, your suggestions are also acceptable."

He also urged Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), to narrow his party's differences with other parties over Japan's involvement in UNTAC.

Tanabe told Akashi of the SDP's proposal to make personnel contributions acceptable by transferring Self-Defense Forces members to other nonmilitary organizations, party officials said.

Government Position on UN PKO Bill Discussed

OW1005185292 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0000 GMT 10 May 92

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 0000 GMT on 10 May carries a 60-minute "Panel Discussion" program entitled "Focal Points of PKO [peacekeeping operations] and Upper House Elections." "Panel Discussion" is a recorded program regularly broadcast on Sunday mornings.

The participants in the program moderated by NHK commentator Ichiro Maeda include Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Motoji Kondo, along with six members of the upper house Special Committee on International Peace Cooperation: Takao Fujii from the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP); Osamu Yatabe from the Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ); Kentaro Koba from Komeito; Haruko Yoshikawa from the Japan Communist Party; Tetsuya Tabuchi from the Democratic Socialist Party; and Tetsuo Inoue from Rengo-Sangiin.

Moderator Maeda begins by reviewing the ongoing upper house debates on the UN PKO Bill, pointing out that the issue is bound to become a focal point during the last half of the current upper house session.

After each Diet member states his or her respective party's PKO policy so far, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Kondo expresses his appreciation for the Diet's cooperative efforts during the recent deliberations. He stresses that the government will seek the Diet's approval of its original draft bill at the current session despite the fact that the SDPJ has proposed an alternative plan.

Asked if the Self-Defense Forces' (SDF) participation is the government's only option for PKO activities, Kondo says it is highly possible that civilians will be dispatched to participate in PKO activities, but he adds that it is most likely that SDF members will be asked to play the key role because of their capability.

Following remarks by the LDP's Fujii, who says the government should provide a clear definition of what is meant by "UN command over the SDF in PKO," Kondo says, "As a matter of course, the government will clarify this point since it considers the issue part of its homework." In connection with the government's explanation that the SDF will not be placed under the "command" (shiki) but the "direction" (sashizu) of UN forces, Kondo states that the SDF's independent command does not mean SDF units will be allowed to take unilateral actions while ignoring UN instructions. He says: "In general, those units dispatched will retain their right to discipline members for disobedience or wrongdoing, and we do not currently intend to entrust such authority to the United Nations. This is what we have been trying to say when we use the word direction. Japanese commanders should supervise unit members in order that they do not go beyond SDF guidelines. This is why we intend to leave the commanding rights in the hands of unit commanders."

Toward the end of the discussion, in answer to a question on how the government plans to offer support in Cambodia, Kondo says: "Of course, consideration will be given to providing humanitarian aid, but such aid will not be limited to Cambodia alone. For full-fledged support for PKO activities in Cambodia, it will be necessary to first obtain the Diet's approval of the PKO Bill." In terms of concerns expressed by some Asian nations over Japan's attempt to dispatch SDF members overseas under the pretext of PKO participation, Kondo notes that the best way to alleviate these concerns is to clarify Japan's posture by displaying its genuine objectives through actual cooperation in PKO activities. In conclusion, Kondo points out that "the primary factor of Japan's decision to participate in PKO activities is to offer our best contributions," stressing Japan's peace-oriented objectives in PKO activities.

OECD Ministers Urge Growth-Oriented Policy

OW1105132292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1226 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 11 KYODO—Industrial nations should pursue growth-oriented policy, while vowing to wrap up stalled global trade talks as soon as possible, their Paris-based economic organization says in a draft communique to be adopted later this month.

The document, to be endorsed by finance, trade, and foreign ministers of the 24-nation Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) at their May 18-19 meeting, will set the tone for the July summit of the seven major industrial nations in Munich.

The draft communique, in an apparent reference to Japan, urges nations with current account surpluses to reduce them by boosting domestic demand, according to Japanese Government sources.

The sources did not rule out the possibility of Japan being named in a final communique as a nation which needs measures to rev up its economy.

The sources said Tokyo is braced for strong presure from other countries at the annual OECD meeting to take pump-priming measures, but will try to dodge it so as not to be forced to serve as a "locomotive" for world economic growth.

Japan instead will point to budget deficits and unemployment confronting the United States and some European countries as medium- and long-term problems to be resolved, the sources said.

From Japan, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe, and Takeshi Noda, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, are due to attend the OECD meeting, depending on their Diet schedules.

The draft communique, taking a look at medium- and long-term issues, emphasizes the need to cope with unemployment as more than 30 million people are out of work in OECD member countries, the sources said.

To that end, the document calls for improved education systems and enhanced job training programs, saying they should serve sustainable growth, the sources said.

On trade, it appeals to member nations to successfully end the ongoing world trade talks, while urging them to submit reports on how to coordinate free trade with competition and environmental policies by next year's meeting.

Referring to growing moves to form regional trade blocs, such as the 12-nation European Community's transition to a single market, the draft text underlines that such moves should not hinder the mechanism of free global trade.

The draft document also stresses the need for the OECD to play a role in coordinating assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) by major industrial nations, the International Monetary Fund, and other international institutions.

It gives high marks to economic and political reforms under way in the former Soviet republics and reaffirms the OECD's support for moves by the CIS to convert its military industries to civilian production.

Foreign Minister's Office on Kickback Charges

OW1205105992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1034 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 12 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe is "embarrassed" by reports alleging shady links to a consortium of companies receiving government foreign-aid funds, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

"The foreign minister is very much embarrassed by the report," spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa said of recent articles in the SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS in California reporting that Watanabe had positioned himself for kickbacks from Japanese companies involved in a 212 million dollar trade fair complex in Jakarta.

The project was partially funded by the Japanese Government's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), which lent the consortium 61 million dollars and directly invested 2.9 million dollars.

"The impression that this is a scandal is absolutely unfounded," Hanabusa told foreign correspondents, but declined to elaborate on Watanabe's alleged role in the project through Mitsuo Marume, a private aide and director of Konan Trading Corp. who is director of the consortium formed specifically for the project.

The ministry has ruled out any impropriety on the part of the OECF in financing the project, Hanabusa said, referring questions about "other things," namely Watanabe's role, to the foreign minister's parliamentary office, he said.

Watanabe's office said that while he played a role in encouraging Japanese companies to take part in the project, there was "no impropriety" on his part.

The foreign minister shares no "personal interest" with Marume and does not employ him as the minister's "secretary," as was reported, his office said in a statement.

Watanabe told the Diet that Marume might be characterized as an unpaid "staff" member of his office.

Hanabusa distributed to reporters a letter he recently sent to the editor of the MERCURY NEWS "pointing out certain serious misunderstandings" in its articles on Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA), about which he said "we are not happy."

The letter expresses concern that the stories may give U.S. readers "a mistaken idea of Japan's ODA" and may "inadvertently make Japanese taxpayers less willing to support it."

Hanabusa disputed the newspaper's assertion that loan and investment programs implemented by OECF might be manipulated by certain "influential people," saying there is "no room for them" in the government's "careful" aid project selection process.

Rebutting the newspaper's claim that specifications of feasibility studies and projects are written to favor Japanese companies, Hanabusa said the fact that 73 percent of all contracts go to non-Japanese companies "effectively rebuts this suggestion."

The spokesman also took issue with the daily's suggestion that Japanese assistance is not assistance at all, but investment, mainly in the socioeconomic infrastructure, intended to benefit Japanese industry.

He argued that infrastructure benefits not only the people of recipient countries, but also potential investors that those countries need. Investors benefit equally, whether Japanese or not, he said.

Mieno: Economy Set To Start Recovery in Fall

OW1105084392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0816 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Naha, May 1 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno said Monday the Japanese economy is set to start picking up this autumn, as business conditions are now hitting bottom.

Mieno predicted little chance that Japan's growing current account surplus would begin to shrink soon, adding that a stronger yen is important to reverse the expansionary trend in the black ink in trade.

The central banker said in a speech in Okinawa's capital that the economy, now in the deepest trough of its current adjustment phase, will likely shift to a cycle of noninflationary, sustainable growth in early autumn or soon thereafter.

In the meantime, Mieno reiterated he will keep close tabs on the effects of monetary and fiscal measures implemented so far to prop up the economy.

"We are watching closely what effects the series of monetary easing and fiscal measures are going .to have from a medium-term point of view, not simply from the standpoint that the economy is in poor shape," Mieno said.

He said the resurgent current account surplus "will remain at the current level for the time being." To cap the surplus, Mieno said, "it is important for the currency market to stabilize the yen in an upward direction in reflection of Japan's economic fundamentals."

The Finance Ministry reported last week that Japan's surplus in the current account for the year ended on March 31 soared 2.67 times from the previous year to 90 billion dollars, the second-largest surplus ever.

The trade suplus jumped 62.4 percent to a record 113 billion dollars during the fiscal year, the ministry said.

The trade statistics came less than two weeks after finance ministers and central bankers from the six of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations urged Tokyo to boost Japan's domestic demand to slash the surplus.

Slowest Growth in Two Decades Forecast in 1992

OW1105094092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0823 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 11 KYODO—Japan's economy will grow at an inflation-adjusted pace of roughly 2 percent in fiscal 1992, the slowest growth in nearly two decades that could require another official discount rate cut by this summer, according to a bank report released Monday.

The report, prepared by the Industrial Bank of Japan, said that the current economic slowdown will last long enough to keep the pace of growth well below the government's forecast of 3.5 percent for the fiscal year that ends on March 31 next year.

As factors behind the pessimistic forecast, the bank pointed to a possible delay in moves by corporations, notably raw material manufacturers, to slash their inventories, a factor considered a key to an economic recovery.

It also cited structural problems surrounding the nation's industry, referring to an increase in fixed costs which coincides with slack production activity, or a phenomenon that could slow corporate capital outlays.

The report concluded that these problems on the industrial front, coupled with the financial system that became frangible in the wake of the burst of asset inflation caused by excessively easy credit policy, would prompt the Bank of Japan to cut its official discount rate again probably this summer.

The central bank last cut its official discount rate, a fee it charges on its loans to commerical banks, on April 1 by 0.75 percentage point to 3.75 percent per annum, the fourth cut of its kind since last July.

Stock Market Said Reflecting Brighter Outlook

OW1105110992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1028 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 11 KYODO—The recent firming in the Tokyo stock market reflects the spreading perception the economy is finally bottoming out, a top Finance Ministry official said.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the upturn of stock prices is obviously inspired by a view the economic downturn is approaching an end.

The brighter prospect for the economy is gaining ground among members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party as well as economists and market players, he said.

"More and more people are coming round to the view that the economy is hitting the bottom at last," he said. "The recent stock price movements are clearly related (with the increasing optimism.)"

The official said trading in the stock market is wider in range and larger in volume than during its drawn-out period in the [word indistinct].

He said Japan has limited room to take additional fiscal measures to boost the economy.

On the ministerial meeting of the organization for economic cooperation and development in Paris next week, to be followed by the July summit of seven economic powers, the official said taking policy steps that disregard economic fundamentals could disrupt rather than stimulate growth.

Economists expect Japan will face more calls from its partners in the Group of Seven (G-7) to take additional measures to boost its sluggish economy on top of the package Tokyo announced at the end of March.

The G-7 nations made such calls in their meeting of finance ministers and central bankers late April in Washington.

While admitting the possibility Japan will again come under pressure during the coming meetings, the official said, "growth empowered by inflationary fiscal policy and budget deficits will never hold on."

Japan should achieve stable growth at "cruising speed" in the face of the rapid aging of the populace, he said.

"We can no longer be expected to aim at fast growth as before."

On the growing current account surplus, the official said Japan will seek "understanding" from its major trading partners over the measures it has implemented to reduce the surplus through expansion of domestic demand.

"We will try to persuade them not to bristle at short-term figures," he said.

The ministry reported last week Japan's current account surplus in fiscal 1991 rose to its second-largest level ever, with the trade surplus hitting an all-time high.

The official also said Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata will meet U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle on May 14 during his visit to Japan.

The two will discuss a wide variety of topics, including the state of Japan-U.S. relations and economic and political situations in Eastern Europe and Asia, he said.

Miyazawa: Global Warming Treaty 'First Step'

OW1105024492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0157 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 11 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Monday hailed the global agreement on combating global warming as a "first step" toward signing the historic pact at the earth summit in Brazil in June.

He made the remark in the Diet building before attending a special parliamentary panel on peacekeeping legislation.

Negotiators in New York on Saturday approved a text for a United Nations treaty to curb global warming, which clears the way for it to be signed at the U.N.-sponsored environmental summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Reaction to Report on Sulfur Oxide From China

OW0905095892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0842 GMT 9 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 9 KYODO—Sulfur oxide released into the atmosphere in China and blown over Japan's skies is worsening acid rain here, a private research institution said Saturday.

The government responded that it will actively support China and other developing countries on environmental issues.

In terms of sulfur, some 600,000 tons fall on Japan every year, carried either by wind or rain, the General Research Institute of the electric power industry said in a report based on four years of research, started in 1987.

With Japan's cars and factories releasing an estimated 440,000 tons of sulfur a year in the form of exhaust gas or smoke, as of 1986, the report suggested sulfur oxide from China has caused worsening acid rain detected in Japan in recent years.

Moreover, the study found higher levels of sulfur oxide in the rain over areas of Japan facing China across the Sea of Japan than in areas facing the Pacific Ocean.

"The amount of sulfur oxide detected in the rain falling over the area of the Sea of Japan side apparently increased during the winter," probably carried by seasonal winter winds, said a researcher at the institution.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said the study proved that environmental problems are now a global issue spreading beyond national borders.

The ministry said it will call on China and other nations to work together to protect the environment.

The institute's report, the first definitive quantitative analysis of a Chinese link to Japan's acid rain, seemed to confirm long-held views of experts that big coal-burning power plants along China's Chang Jiang (Yangtze) River were worsening Japan's acid rain.

The findings are results of the institution's research on the relationship between atmospheric sulfur oxide and acid rain at 20 sites across Japan. It conducted the research at the request of the government's Agency of Natural Resources and Energy.

MITI has set up a "green aid" program starting this fiscal year, under which aid is offered for environmental protection projects in developing nations.

Under the program, MITI and the Chinese Government have agreed to jointly develop low-cost desulfurization facilities for electric power plants in China.

Postal Fund To Aid Asian Refugees, Environment

OW1105103192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0939 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 11 KYODO—Japan's Postal Ministry will emphasize refugees and environmental protection in Asia in distributing 2.7 billion yen donated by postal savers, ministry officials said Monday.

One official said the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications deemed Asian refugees and the environment to be causes "needed most for Japan to contribute to international society."

The fund, established in January 1991 to help domestic groups engaged in volunteer activity abroad, is financed by holders of postal savings accounts who agree to donate 20 percent of the interest they earn on their accounts.

In fiscal 1991 ended March 31, more than 6.7 million account holders donated 2.71 billion yen to the fund, well above a ministry forecast of 2.4 billion yen.

Donations for fiscal 1990 were distributed almost equally among the volunteer groups that applied to the fund.

But fiscal 1991 requests, at 6.9 billion yen, far exceeded the amount collected in the fund, making it difficult to do the same, the ministry officials said.

North Korea

Delegation Spokesman Makes Departure Statement

SK0805075292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0400 GMT 8 May 92

[Statement by An Pyong-su, spokesman of the DPRK delegation to the seventh round of North-South high-level talks at the Shilla Hotel in Seoul on 8 May—recorded]

[Text] Seoul citizens, compatriots and brothers in the South, and domestic and foreign reporters: Our North side's delegation, which had arrived in Seoul to hold the seventh round of North-South high-level talks, is going to leave Seoul for Pyongyang, ending its schedule of four days and three nights. Before leaving Seoul, our delegation extends deep thanks to Seoul citizens and compatriots in the South who warmly received our delegation members with kindred feelings. At the same time, we express deep thanks to the South side delegation and those concerned who have paid deep consideration to our delegation members so that they did not experience inconveniences.

As I mentioned at this place on 5 May when releasing my arrival statement after coming to Seoul, I first stressed that our delegation would voluntarily try to make the seventh round of talks a driving force in strongly promoting the overall work of the talks, including the subcommittees' work. Second, I made clear our delegation's stance to bring a new appearance to the seventh round of talks as practical talks in which the North-South agreement is not worthless paper but a weighty and precious agreement and in which our fellow countrymen can tangibly actually feel effects from the implementation of the North-South agreement.

This stance of our delegation and its sincere efforts expressed during the talks were not futile. I think that all of you directly witnessed the process of the talks through television or through news reports. The success of the seventh round of talks is integrated in the just released joint communique of the seventh round of North-South high-level talks. The joint communique comprises many successes, but I think that we can summarize them into two points. In other words, we think that one of the important successes attained at the seventh round of talks is that they have opened a bright path in the future work of overall talks, including the work of subcommittees. Let me repeat again that this is one of the major successes attained in the current talks. Another important success is that our efforts to present a specific, concrete gift for our fellow countrymen, one that they can feel before the nation, have produced fruit; as a result, an agreement was reached in the current talks on the issue of mutual exchanges of home-visiting groups of elderly people and art troupes.

This is outstanding fruit from the current talks. This success was because our North side's delegation willingly accepted those problems proposed by the South side to us so far. We directly witnessed Seoul citizens and all fellow countrymen welcoming these projects with joy. I think that this is another success attained in the current talks.

We share joy over these successes with all fellow countrymen and South side delegation members. At the same time, I as a person in charge of promoting the work of the high-level talks feel fulfillment.

What do new successes show? What is their significance? This shows that we are making steady advances for progress in the high-level talks, national unity, and national reunification. This is very significant. More specifically, the successes attained in the current seventh round of talks guarantees to a considerable extent the success of the eighth round of talks to be held in September. Another significance of the current seventh round of talks is that the talks demonstrated the weight of the North-South agreement at home and abroad.

Some people say that the North-South agreement is a joint declaration, a military agreement, or a worthless piece of paper. However, the success of the current talks gives the firm conviction that they should not have such suspicions. This is also the significance of the current seventh round of talks.

However, we do not think that the just-concluded seventh round of talks was satisfactory in all aspects.

What we find unsatisfactory about the seventh round of talks—in connection with the work of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee—is that we are leaving without fully dissipating all our deep- rooted, historic misgivings about nuclear weapons and nuclear bases still deployed in South Korea, or even part of them. We regret this.

Second, there was ample opportunity for both sides to advance farther with the annexed agreements as well as the agreements on forming and operating the joint committees during the seventh round of talks. However, the agreements on forming and operating some subcommittees, such as the joint political committee and joint reconciliation committee, and the annexed agreements have been postponed again until the eighth round of talks. We regret that we have to leave Seoul with such issues unresolved.

We also regret events surrounding Mr. Yi In-mo, whose name was mentioned by our delegation head in his keynote speech.

According to news reports, Mr. Yi In-mo came to Seoul to meet our delegation. He came as far as the area near Shilla Hotel, where we were staying. Very regrettably, Mr. Yi In-mo was not only forcibly turned back, but also never given the chance to see the North side delegation. More importantly, he now is under government control.

Rather than expressing our regret over it, we consider this incident a far cry from the humanitarian, epoch-making proposal we have expressed during the just-concluded round of talks. It exceeds common sense.

We regret we are returning without any affirmative indications regarding such issues as U.S. relations, the National Security Law, the government as sole channel for dialogue, and freedom of the people to participate in reunification debates, dialogue, and contacts—fundamental issues the South side will inevitably have to resolve to implement the basic North-South agreement and maintain the spirit of the North-South agreement.

Despite all this, we are optimistic about the future of the high-level talks, because no one can ignore North and South fellow countrymen's ardent desire for reunification or their high expectations of the talks.

Both North and South authorities should think before they act. Otherwise, they will be denounced by the nation. Thus, we are convinced the two sides will choose the correct road.

I would like to mention that we have already put forward the three principles for national reunification, and we now have the North-South agreement, a more concrete embodiment of the principles. Also, we have formed joint committees as executive institutions.

There is no room to retreat. We are destined only to move forward.

I am convinced the North and South authorities will have no choice but to cooperate with each other, compromise, and genuinely march forward hand in hand toward peace and reunification of the country. I am optimistic about the future of the talks.

We are convinced that success of the eighth round of North-South high-level talks, slated for the coming September, is almost ensured.

Before leaving Seoul, I once again offer my warm gratitude to Seoul citizens and compatriots and brethren in the South for always sending warm spiritual support to our delegations.

Good luck. Thank you.

Inspection of U.S. Bases Called 'Pressing Task'

SK1205045792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435 GMT 12 May 92

["Overall Inspection Cannot Be Delayed"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 12 (KCNA)—To list all the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea in the objects of inspection and make inspection of them is an urgent and pressing task which brooks no further delay either in view of the principle of impartiality of nuclear inspection or in view of the demand of the joint declaration on denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula which was adopted between the North and the South, says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

The news analyst says:

At the moment when we are going to undergo a nuclear inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency overall inspection is an important issue, an indispensable process to thoroughly realize denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

Now that the South Korean authorities made public a "declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons" and the United States, too, promised to open the U.S. military bases in South Korea to the public for inspection there is no reason or pretext for them to refuse to comply with our demand for simultaneous inspection.

Nevertheless, they are insisting on "North-South mutual inspection of same numbers." This cannot be construed otherwise than a sign of the existence of nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea, an attempt to exclude them from the objects of inspection and, furthermore, block the road of denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

The more persistently the United States and the South Korean authorities stick to the negative attitude toward simultaneous inspection, the stronger the doubt of the Korean people and the world people about them will grow.

If the United States and the South Korean authorities are really interested in the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, they must accept an overall inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea without delay.

Government Recognizes Slovenia, Croatia

SK1205110192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 12 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-nam, vice-premier of the Administration Council and minister of foreign affairs of the DPRK, sent letters to his counterparts of Slovenia and Croatia in connection with the independence of their republics from Yugoslavia recently.

Kim Yong-nam said in the letters that the DPRK Government decided to recognize the independence of the republics of Slovenia and Croatia and would favourably develop friendly and cooperative relations with those countries in conformity with the idea of independence, peace and friendship.

Japan's Repentance Called Requisite for Ties

SK1205051692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT 12 May 92

["NODONG SINMUN on Japanese Reactionaries' Brazen Argument"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 12 (KCNA)—For Japan to sincerely repent of her wrong past is a first and foremost requisite to the normalization of relations between Korea and Japan, says NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article entitled "Brazen Argument About 'Legality' of 'Ulsa (5-point) Treaty'."

The article reads in part:

The Japanese side contended at the DPRK-Japan talks that the "Ulsa Treaty" forced by Japan upon the Korean feudal government in 1905 at the point of the bayonet was one concluded on a legal basis and it was "effective" in those days. This is a distortion of history and a far-fetched argument in view of international law.

The illegality of the "Ulsa Treaty" lies, first of all, in the fact that it was faked up under threats and coercion by Japanese imperialists and without procedures of legal ratification.

At 02:00, November 18, 1905, Hirobumi Ito who crawled into Korea in the capacity of "special ambassador of Japan" encircled the royal palace doubly and trebly with heavily-armed Japanese aggressor troops, intimidated the king and ministers of the feudal government to force them to accept the "Ulsa Treaty." They wrested the royal seal and had it put to the "treaty" without so much as obtaining ratification from the kind.

The illegal nature of the "treaty" also lies in that it was a treaty run through with an aggressive content whereby the Japanese imperialists divested the Korean feudal government of its diplomatic right and established residency-general in Korea. Under this "treaty" Korea was reduced to a "protectorate" of Japanese imperialism, totally deprived of sovereignty and diplomatic right in international relations.

The "treaty" could not take any legal effect because it was an unequal one entirely contradictory to the publicly recognized principles and norms of international law including the principle of respecting state sovereignty.

Facts clearly prove that the argument of the Japanese side that the "treaty" forced by Japanese imperialism upon the Korean feudal government in the past was an "effective" one is an absurd argument without any legal justification, a brigandish logic.

This attempt of Japan is, in the final analysis, a petty trick to justify her crime-woven history against the Korean people at any cost and thereby to conceal her nature as a violator of international law and escape from her unavoidable obligations to apologize and compensate to our people.

If the Japanese authorities really want to normalize relations with the DPRK, they must frankly admit and repent of the crimes committed by Japan against our people in the past, in keeping with the spirit of the three-party joint declaration of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Liberal-Democratic Party and the Social-Democratic Party of Japan and with the aspirations of the peoples of the two countries.

South Korea

Agreement Reached on Inspection Guidelines Talks

SK1205092392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0849 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 12 (YONHAP)—South and North Korea inched closer to a mutual nuclear inspection agreement with compromises from both sides in talks Tuesday.

North Korea agreed to priority talks on inter-Korean nuclear inspection guidelines instead of insisting on adopting a subsidiary agreement first, Kong No-myong, South Korean chairman of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC), said after the 4th meeting of the JNCC.

South Korea in turn accepted North Korea's demand to specifically name "nuclear weapons and nuclear bases" as subjects of inter-Korean inspection, he said.

The two sides will hold their first working-level contact on drawing up the text on Friday. The JNCC will hold its fifth meeting on May 27, also at the truce village of Panmunjom.

"The working-level contacts will continue regularly from this Friday. We hope to conclude the agreement text by the next JNCC meeting," Kong said.

North Korea had formerly insisted on adopting a separate protocol based on the inter-Korean Joint Declaration of the Denuclearization of the Korean peninsula before talking about inspection guidelines.

In addition to the pledge already made in the joint declaration to abandon nuclear reprocessing and uranium enrichment capabilities, Pyongyang demanded an international guarantee to keep the Korean peninsula nuclear-free.

Choe U-chin, North Korean chairman of the JNCC, withdrew his original stance and agreed to negotiate an inspection regime first, Kong said.

South Korea, on the other hand, agreed to alter the specified subjects of inspection from "sites suspected of nuclear capabilities" to "nuclear weapons and nuclear bases."

North Korea demanded this specification, apparently in order to open all U.S. military bases in the South to inspection.

South Korea remains opposed to adopting a separate protocol suggested by North Korea, but sources say Seoul may be willing to include it in the main agreement.

But the two sides are yet to agree on including "special inspection" to the regime, Kong said.

Special inspection would force one side to open facilities designated unilaterally by the other side, resembling forced inspection.

Seoul is proposing a "quota system" where the two sides will set the number of annual inspections and freely choose the number and type of sites they want to see within the given quota.

"What is important is that both sides have the same rights in inspecting each other," Kong said.

South Korea demanded a North Korean explanation of a report by the Carnegie Endowment of the United States that quoted Pyongyang officials saying that a "reprocessing experiment" had produced "a little bit of plutonium for experimental purposes," Kong said.

North Korea had replied that all of the facts would be revealed through International Atomic Energy Agency and mutual inspections, he said.

No Tae-u Urges N-S Mutual Arms Reduction

SK1205040792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0305 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 12 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u said Tuesday that South and North Korea should effect mutual arms reduction and nuclear inspections at an early date based on the principle of reciprocity.

"The South and the North should hasten to prepare measures to end their state of meaningless military confrontation," No said.

The president made the remarks in an address read for him by Prime Minister Chong Won-sik at a Seoul regional meeting of the Advisory Council on Democracy and Peaceful Unification held at the Sejong Cultural Center.

He said the implementation of the basic South-North Korean agreement should begin with mutual recognition of each other's entities.

"The two sides should desist from committing any acts that run counter to the pledge made in the agreement," No said.

He also said the two sides should lay bare the state of their armed forces, adopt an information exchange system to forestall inadvertent armed clashes, and reduce their excessive arms based on the principles of reciprocity and rational sufficiency.

Deputy Prime Minister and National Unification Minister Choe Ho-chung reported that the recent inter-Korean agreement on exchanges of aged people was a highly significant feat resulting from the South's consistent efforts.

"We will steadily promote these programs so as to realize free hometown visits and ultimate reunions among dispersed families," Choe said.

Regional meetings of the Advisory Council are to be held in major cities and provincial capitals through May 30.

Daewoo Nampo Trip Tied to Nuclear Issue Solution

SK1205102692 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 12 May 92 p 10

[Text] The Daewoo Group's fact-finding team's visit to the North to survey the Nampo joint-venture complex appears possible only after June.

On 11 May, a high-ranking government official revealed that "although recent North-South high-level talks produced good results, problems, including the nuclear issue, were not completely resolved. Economic cooperation will come only after the nuclear issue is resolved." "Thus," he added, "economic cooperation is possible only after agreement on mutual nuclear inspection at the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee in June."

The official said Daewoo's fact-finding team's visit to the North is possible only after the nuclear issue is solved, and even if the nuclear issue is resolved, full-scale investment by Daewoo depends on the North and South agreeing on annexed agreements at high-level talks in September. This means the government intends to allow the North visit after the nuclear issue is resolved and full-scale investment after agreement on annexed agreements is reached.

The government, however, still intends to allow all direct trade with North Korea by domestic business groups in the South. As a result, the government will likely approve most requests for contact with North Koreans submitted to the Unification Board by large domestic business groups seeking to expand direct North-South trade on the occasion of recent North-South talks.

Formal Name, Flag Used at Beijing Trade Fair

SK1205032292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0229 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Beijing, May 12 (YONHAP)—South Korea opened its first trade fair in Beijing Tuesday amid China's diplomatic gesture that allowed the use of its formal name, the Republic of Korea, and its national flag.

The Korea merchandise exhibition, sponsored by the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (Kotra), runs through Saturday with 46 Korean companies taking part, including Samsung, Lucky-Goldstar, Hyundai and Daewoo.

Korea-made cars, electric and electronic goods, steel products, machinery, textiles, stationery and food stuffs, all promising exports to China, are on show during the fair at the Chinese international exposition center.

Kotra President Kim Chul-su, Amb. No Chae-won, head of Korea's trade representative office in China, Zheng Hongye, chairman of the China chamber of international commerce and other ranking Korean and Chinese officials attended the opening ceremony.

Kim said in opening remarks that the fair was a stage for understanding and exchanges between South Korean and Chinese businesses and would provide important momentum for multilateral economic cooperation.

South Korea and China had recognized each other tacitly by allowing each other to use their national flags and names in trade exhibitions, and diplomatic normalization was not far away, diplomatic sources here said.

Domestic Firms Accused of Dumping Computer Chips

SK1205030292 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 May 92 p 8

[By staff reporter Choe Song-chin]

[Text] A U.S. computer chip maker's latest antidumping charge against some of its Korean competitors has brought a growing sense of crisis upon this country's semiconductor industry.

Concerns are mounting among domestic chip makers about the adverse effect the possible imposition of antidumping duties will have on foreign shipments of computer chips, which is the nation's single largest export item.

Korea shipped out $1.4 billion worth of dynamic random access memories, or DRAMs, last year, 40 percent of which or $580 million worth, went to the United States, according to the government figures.

It was April 22 that Micron Technology Inc., a leading U.S. chip maker, filed an antidumping petition with U.S. agencies, alleging that three Korean chip makers were selling memory chips in the United States at prices below cost with dumping a margin ranging from 13.2 percent to a whopping 282.51 percent.

In a petition filed with the U.S. Commerce Department and the International Trade Commission, Micron charged that the Korean makers—Samsung Electronics Co., Goldstar Electron Ltd. and Hyundai Electronics Co.—were dumping one- and four-megabyte DRAMs, which are widely used in computers and other electronic equipment.

The three Korean firms immediately responded to Micron's complaint, saying that the alleged dumping margins were "greatly inflated."

Each of them has been preparing documents to refute the U.S. company's allegations. The three firms, which normally are in tough competition in domestic and foreign markets, are now working together to counter the American maker's charge.

An official at the chip exporters' association, however, said he believes that the U.S. computer industry would have more to lose than gain if the U.S. administration restricts Korean imports by accepting micron's allegation.

The official, who requested anonymity, compared the latest dumping charge to the similar allegations made against Japanese companies in 1985, which later led to a 1986 U.S.-Japan chip agreement that placed strict rules on Japanese firms selling DRAMs in the United States.

If Micron wants similar results with the Korean makers, the U.S. company is totally mistaken, the official said, adding that this would prove to be completely different from the Japanese case.

He pointed out that the antidumping charge against the Korean makers was the result of a single U.S. company's corporate problem, not reflecting the entire U.S. chip industry's interests.

As to reasons why the U.S. administration should regard this case from a different angle from the Japanese case, the officials said that first the Korean and U.S. semiconductor industries are not of competing nature but of reciprocal structure that can implement each other.

"While Korea's semiconductor industry focuses on manufacturing DRAMs, the U.S. industry mainly makes non-memory products such as microprocessors and ASICs (application specific integrated circuits)," he said.

Korea and the United States are also maintaining a near balance in the chip trade, he said. Korea exported $2.2 billion worth of computer chips to America and imported $1.9 billion worth from it.

Second, Korean companies have been paying large amounts of royalties to U.S. industry, which may sharply decline if the Korean firms' sales tumble, he said. The 1991 royalty payment to the U.S. businesses were $170 million.

Third, Korea depends heavily on U.S. firms for computer-manufacturing equipment and materials, whose imports from America stood at $280 million and $180 million, respectively, last year, he said.

"Taking all these factors into account, I doubt what good the import restriction of Korean-made chips would bring on the U.S. industry as a whole," he said.

He predicted that considerable oppositions would arise against Micron's charges among the U.S. makers of chip equipment, materials and computer products in the course of industrial probes.

"The U.S. administration would not be able to ignore such voices of opposition," he said.

The ITC is to make a preliminary ruling on the case early June, and the DOC, late September. The final ruling is scheduled for mid-December by the DOC and late January in 1993 by the ITC.

If the ITC finds the allegation invalid in the preliminary ruling in June, the case will be brought to an end.

U.S. Environmental Bills Threatening Exports

SK1205031192 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 12 May 92 p 8

[Text] An array of environment protection bills introduced in the U.S. Congress is posing a threat to Korean exports to the country, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) said yesterday.

The agency urged the government to take a wary look at "potentially protectionist" bills, which would bar the importation of foreign industrial goods not complying with U.S. environmental standards.

The "Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Amendments of 1991" is the one that would require U.S. and foreign manufacturers to use more recycled materials, putting countries like Korea who lack expertise in recycling at a disadvantage, KOTRA said.

Another bill called "International Pollution Deterrence Act of 1991" proposes additional tariffs for products imported from countries not making sufficient investment in environmental protection.

KOTRA cited more comprehensive bills like "General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade for the Environment Act of 1991," the enactment of which may put a damper on the exports of some of the countries deemed as negligent in environment protection.

It said that other restrictive measures have been proposed in the bills on fishing, which are seeking the ban on international drift net fishing and other exploitive forms of fishing.

"These bills would have a great impact on the Korean industry, which is in large part dependent on the exports to the United States," KOTRA pointed out.

It said some of the bills seem to be the products of "environmental imperialism not consistent with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Seoul Wary of Aiding Korean L.A. Riot Victims

SK1205030992 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 12 May 92 p 1

[By staff reporter Sin Hak-im]

[Text] The government is taking a cautious stand on the rehabilitation of the damage suffered by Korean victims in the Los Angeles rioting, with the basic understanding that it is not a matter of Korea but the United States.

The cautious approach also stems from the judgment that excessively aggressive efforts by the Korean government might not only have an adverse effect upon Seoul-Washington ties but also hurt rapprochement between Korean residents and blacks and other minorities in riot-torn Los Angeles in the long run, Foreign Ministry officials said yesterday.

"Basically, the L.A. rioting and the relief activities are a matter for the U.S. administration. Therefore, all our government has to do for Korean victims is to extend moral support and diplomatic assistance," said a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Though some Korean residents still have Korean nationality, most Korean residents in Los Angeles hold U.S. citizenship or residentship. "As a consequence, relief activities are matters to be dealt with by the U.S. federal and state governments," said the ministry official.

However, Foreign Ministry officials said that the government did its best to do what it can to help Korean victims through diplomatic channels. They referred to the fact that the Korean government had expressed deep "concern" upon the outbreak of the riot and called for proper measures when it called in U.S. Amb. Donald Gregg and when Korean Ambassador to Washington Hyon Hong-cho met ranking officials of the White House and the department of State as well as L.A. city authorities.

As a result, President George Bush visited Koreatown, promised Korean residents that federal aid was coming quickly and assured them "the American dream still lives."

"If our government goes further, it might be viewed as intervention in domestic affairs of a foreign country," said another Foreign Ministry official.

Ho Sung, assistant foreign minister for economic affairs, who headed a government fact-finding mission to Los Angeles, said yesterday that relief activities by the U.S. government authorities are divided into two parts—emergency aid by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for food and other daily necessities of life and envisioned support for business by the Small Business Administration (SBA).

Up to $11,500 of emergency aid for each victimized household is under study by the federal government following the designation of Los Angeles as a disaster area and long-term loans with 4-percent annual interest are planned by the SBA.

"I appealed to Korean victims and volunteers for relief activities to understand that the Korean government is in a very difficult position in terms of taking an initiative in dealing with relief issues, including reparations," said Ho.

President Lowers Corporate Tax To Revive Industry

SK1205030792 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 May 92 p 8

[Text] President No Tae-u yesterday instructed corporate taxes be lowered for small- and medium-sized industries as a way to help reinvigorate them.

No said that the government would continue its present tight monetary policy but that the squeeze would be eased on loans for small- and medium-sized industries to expand their production facilities.

The President gave the instructions when he met with economic ministers to discuss reports that an increasing number of small firms were suffering from financial difficulties.

A presidential spokesman said that the cabinet would work out steps to help small- and medium-sized industries hit by the current business slump.

The measures would include "substantial" reduction of corporate taxes for the next two years, he said.

During the meeting No observed that the government has made progress in its efforts to curb inflation and improve the international balance of payments situation. The President asked the ministers to continue their efforts to secure economic stability.

In particular he called for a stable supply of farm products, noting that it is likely to be affected by weather conditions and seasonal factors.

No also suggested launching a national campaign to help farmers during the present rice-seedling transplantation season.

The president met the ministers after talking to members of a task force monitoring commodity price movements and making an inspection visit of an "agricultural situation room" at the second government office building in Kwachon, south of Seoul.

DLP Decides To Retain Present Leadership

SK1205032492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0101 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 12 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] has decided to re-elect President No Tae-u as party president, and Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam and Co-chairmen Kim Chong-pil and Pak Tae-chun to their posts, at its national convention, a highly reliable party source said Tuesday.

The DLP will convene an executive meeting thursday to finalize the decision to maintain the current party leadership through a re-election process at the national convention to be held on May 19, when the party is also to nominate a candidate for president, the source said.

The source, who wished to remain anonymous, pointed out that the terms of the DLP president, executive chairman and co-chairmen are due to expire shortly before the convention.

If the DLP were to fill these posts at the convention through free balloting, there would be "many problems," the source said.

The party's two candidates for the presidential nomination, Kim Yong-sam and Yi Chong-chan, had shown their understanding of those problems and agreed to retain the current leadership, the source said.

No has said he has no intention of keeping the party presidency for another two-year term, but he has decided to remain in the post for the time being because of a possible adverse effect of a change in the party presidency on the election of the presidential nominee, the source said.

When the presidential nominee is elected, No will vacate the post of DLP president for him "at an appropriate time," he said.

Pressed to pinpoint the date for a possible change of guard at the helm of the party, another DLP source said the timing would be decided by No and the presidential nominee.

DLP leaders, meanwhile, are mulling over two ways of selecting the party president: By the Central Standing Committee in August or after the presidential election in December, or by a special national convention.

Candidate Agrees To Observe DLP Campaign Rules

SK1205060892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0545 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 12 (YONHAP)—Succumbing to party pressure, Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] candidate for the presidential nomination Yi Chong-chan decided Tuesday to stop holding what are called "outside-the-party rallies" from Wednesday.

Yi has been staging rallies in Seoul and Kwangju that were attended not only by DLP delegates to the national convention but also by ordinary citizens and even members of opposition parties, giving rise to protests from his rival, Kim Yong-sam, and his supporters.

The Kim camp insists that such rallies violate the party's rules for electioneering since the election of the presidential nominee at the national convention May 19 will be an intra-party affair. The party's Central Election Management Committee subsequently decided against Yi.

The Yi camp made the decision following a heated debate between hardliners and moderates among his supporters, sources said. As a compromise, the Yi camp will go on with a rally in Inchon, west of Seoul, Tuesday as scheduled before complying with the rules.

Yi will give speech-making assemblies attended only by party delegates and members from Wednesday in Pusan, South Kyongsang Province.

With Yi's agreement, Kim instructed his supporters to stop slandering or damaging the personal reputation of Yi even if the opposing candidate continued to violate election rules.

Kim's instruction came at a strategy session, participated in by Kim Chong-pil, honorary chairman of the committee to have him elected presidential nominee, and others, including Kwon Ik-hyon, a senior party adviser, and Kim Pok-tong and Kum Chin-ho, two of President No Tae-u's in-laws.

In a similar move, Secretary General of the party Yi Chun-ku called a meeting of influential party members to put a brake on the increasingly hostile and counterproductive race.

Dubbed a gathering of those worried about the future of the party, Tuesday's meeting called on the two camps to restrain themselves in their campaigns, which have been reduced to personal attacks and exchanges of charges and countercharges on nothing more than the methods of campaigning.

Many independent DLP members believe the recent campaign tactics and rhetoric were worse in their intensity and ill-will than the election battles waged between candidates of opposing parties in recent years.

Among those who attended the meeting were Speaker of the National Assembly Pak Chon-kyu, floor leader Yi Cha-hon, Reps Chong Suk-mo, Kim Ki-pae, Kim Yong-ku, and Chong Chae-mun, and Pak Se-chik, lawmaker-elect and a former Seoul mayor.

Participants of the meeting adopted a resolution, expressing "serious concern" over a possible adverse effect on the chances for the DLP to win the presidential election in December.

The two camps are not only ignoring the party's rules and regulations for elections but also conducting smear and slander campaigns against each other, and thus undermining the party's spirit of unity as well as its image to the outside world, they said.

They urged the candidates to yield a little to each other and compromise so that the party could win the next presidency.

Meanwhile, Kim Yong-sam flew to Kwangju Tuesday afternoon to appeal to party delegates from South Cholla Province for their support in a private speech-making assembly.

In his efforts to woo the delegates from the Cholla Provinces, Kim has stressed the need for overcoming regionalism and promised to hire many able Cholla people while developing the long-neglected area if he were elected president.

Speaking at an outside-the-party rally in Inchon, Yi also emphasized for the eradication of the regionalism between Cholla and Kyongsang people and the need to have a "new and fresh politician" to lead the nation.

Yi has scheduled a press conference for Wednesday morning at which he is expected to propose a joint speech-making assembly on may 18. Kim has already ruled out such an assembly, but Yi has been insisting on joint speech-making at different times if the Kim camp wants.

Candidate Pledges To Dissolve Conglomerates

SK1205032192 Seoul YONHAP in English
0256 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 12 (YONHAP)—Chong Chu-yong, leader of the opposition Unification National Party (UNP), said Tuesday he would move to dismantle conglomerates if he became president.

"If the Unification National Party came to power, it would set about dissolving conglomerates by doing away with the mutual guarantee system among their subsidiaries," he told reporters.

Chong, who built one of the nation's biggest business groups, and is running for president, said the conglomerates had contributed to the economy although there had been side effects.

The Hyundai Group founder said breaking up the conglomerates should be done after a one-year wait to minimize the shock.

The nation's lending structure was predominantly in favor of the conglomerates and had helped concentrate economic power in their hands, he said, promising corrections to the structure and other legal measures if were elected president.

"Dissolution of the conglomerates is inevitable for the entire national economy despite the anticipated strong opposition from the federation of Korean industries and a few individuals," Chong said.

The conglomerates should in the future make themselves fully geared up for sharpening international competitiveness, he said.

At the same time, Chong maintained, the government should try to increase the money supply at least 2 percent to stem the collapse of small- and medium-sized businesses through a lack of operating funds.

Burma

Khin Nyunt Receives PRC Vice Foreign Minister

BK0605150692 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], received Mr. Yang Fuchang, vice foreign minister of the People's Republic of China, and his delegation, currently in Rangoon, at the Ministry of Defense's Dagon House at 1200 today.

Present at the meeting together with Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt were U Ohn Gyaw, foreign minister, and Thura U Aung Htet, director general of the Protocol Department. PRC Ambassador Mr. Liang Feng accompanied the visiting delegation.

Delegation Departs 6 May

BK0605150892 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Mr. Yang Fuchang, vice foreign minister of the People's Republic of China, and delegation, currently in Rangoon at the invitation of U Ohn Gyaw, foreign minister, left by air this afternoon.

The vice minister and delegation were seen off at Rangoon Airport by U Ba Thwin, director general of the Department of International Organizations and Economics of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; U Aye Lwin, director general of the Department of Consular Affairs, International Agreements, and Research; U Aye, director general of the Political Department; U Lu Maw, deputy director general of the Protocol Department; responsible personnel from the Foreign Ministry; Mr. Liang Feng, PRC ambassador; and embassy officials.

Relief Officials Prepare Refugees' Return

BK1005085492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0630 GMT 10 May 92

[Text] A special team of employees from the Relief and Resettlement Department led by U Tin Aung, staff officer—Planning Division II, left Rangoon for Sittwe [Akyab], Buthidaung Township, and Maungdaw Township on 8 May to perform respective relief and resettlement activities when receiving back those that went to the country on the other side at the Burma-Bangladesh border.

Former Officials Released From Detention

BK1105151592 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] U Thu Wai, former chairman of the Democracy Party, and U Htay Myint, former deputy chairman, against whom action was taken in January 1992 and who were under detention, were released from Insein Central Jail today in accordance with Declaration No. 11/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC].

U Pe Aung Lin and U Tin Maung Win, against whom action was taken under existing laws in April 1990 and who were serving their sentences; Daw Khin Myint Myint, against whom action was taken under existing laws in September 1989 and who was serving her sentence; Ma Soe Soe U, against whom action was taken under existing laws in December 1991 and who was serving her sentence; Ma San San Myint alias Ma Moe Moe, Ma Swe Swe Pyone alias Ma Swe Swe, and Ma Mi Mi Thinn, against whom action was taken under existing laws in April 1990 and who were serving their sentences; Ma Tin Tin Nyo, against whom action was taken under existing laws in October 1990 and who was serving her sentence; Ma May May Than, against whom action was taken under existing laws in November 1990 and who was serving her sentence, were also released from Insein Central Jail today in accordance with SLORC's Declaration No. 11/92.

Responsible officials from the Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence went to the Insein Central Jail this afternoon, explained SLORC's Declaration No. 11/92 issued on 24 April, and read out the Order of the Ministry of Home Affairs concerning a reduction of jail terms to those who would be released. They were then allowed to meet their family members and were released.

Six Battalions Withdrawn From Karen Confrontation

BK0905033792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 May 92 p 9

[Excerpt] Rangoon has withdrawn six of the 16 infantry battalions deployed to attack Karen rebel headquarters at Manerplaw and another key rebel camp nearby, according to Thai military intelligence sources.

The troops withdrew after Maj-Gen Maung Hla, commander of the 66th Army Division, announced the suspension of the military offensive against the Karen National Union.

The sources said three battalions were pulled out from Weepavichoo Mountain on the banks of the Salween River. But six other battalions remain within attacking range of Manerplaw, they added.

Three of the six battalions posted opposite a KNU camp were withdrawn, said the sources, who added that they did not know if the withdrawal was merely a troop rotation.

In a statement yesterday, the KNU doubted the Burma military junta would halt the offensive.

Referring to Maj-Gen Maung Hla's announcement on April 28, the KNU said the junta had no intention to cease its suppression of the Karen people.

His suspension of "Operation Dragon King" is aimed at giving SLORC troops a rest and allowing stockpiles of arms and ammunition to be replenished, said the KNU, adding that it was also meant to mislead the international community and to cover up the failure of its campaign.

SLORC (State Law and Order Restoration Council) earlier announced it would occupy Manerplaw by March 27, but failed.

The KNU statement said that Rangoon forces had begun attacking Karen rebels, particularly at Manerplaw and Kawmoora, in mid-December 1991. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Cambodia's Son Sann Arrives for Official Visit

Warns Against Election Sabotage

BK1105112592 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1036 GMT 11 May 92

[By Azman Ujang]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 11 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Cambodian leader Son Sann has appealed for international vigilance against efforts to sabotage the general elections scheduled in his war-torn country next year.

Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), said the international community should see to it that the elections were free and fair.

Anything short of that could wreck the reconciliation process under the peace accords signed between the four warring factions in Paris last october, he told BERNAMA in an interview at his Pan-Pacific Hotel suite here Monday.

The KPNLF is one of two non-communist factions in the quardripartite Supreme National Council (SNC) set up following the signing of the peace accords.

The other members are the non-communist Sihanoukist faction of former Cambodian monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who now heads the SNC; the Democratic Kampuchea group, formerly called the Khmer Rouge; and the Hanoi-backed Phnom Penh regime.

Son Sann, who arrived here over the weekend for a private visit, said the task of seeing to free and fair elections in Cambodia fell squarely on the 19 countries which cosigned the Paris accords that ended the 13-year conflict and on the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

The 19 nations include the big powers and the six ASEAN countries.

Among other things, the 26,000-strong peacekeeping forces under UNTAC are responsible for overseeing the cease-fire, laying down of arms by the military units, and the holding of fair and free elections scheduled next march.

During the interview Son Sann cited several key issues which he perceived as undermining free and fair elections, especially the presence of an estimated one million Vietnamese settlers who had been given legal documents by the Phnom Penh regime which would entitle them to vote.

We are strongly protesting against allowing the Vietnamese settlers to vote. In which country in the world are illegal immigrants given voting rights?, he asked.

Son Sann said failure by the international community, especially the countries which cosigned the Paris accords, to ensure free and fair elections would be like giving "half-way support" to the agreement or abandoning Cambodia in its critical hour of need.

It is naive for other countries to think that it is now up to the Cambodian people alone to decide their own future without seeing to it that the regime which Vietnam installed in Phnom Penh respect all the terms of the accord in totality, he added, referring to the government which ruled Cambodia following the Vietnamese invasion in 1978.

He underlined the importance for a neutral party like UNTAC to draw up the country's electoral laws and boundaries and distribution of seats and not the Phnom Penh regime to prevent abuses.

Views UNTAC Immigration Activities

BK1105124492 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1147 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 11 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) is preparing to set up border posts along the Cambodia-Vietnam border to check the alleged influx of Vietnamese illegal immigrants, an official of one of the four factions in the Supreme National Council [SNC] said Monday.

We have forwarded protests to UNTAC, they have recorded it, and they are preparing to set up 12 border posts along the border, said Tach Reng, advisor to the president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), Son Sann.

UNTAC originally wanted to set up eight posts to be jointly manned by UN personnel but the number was increased, he told reporters after attending a luncheon hosted by Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for Son Sann, who is here for a four-day visit.

KPNLF is a non-communist faction in the quadripartite SNC formed following the signing of the Paris peace accords which brought an end to the 13-year war in Cambodia.

Others in the SNC are the Sihanoukist faction; the Chinese-backed Democratic Kampuchea group, formerly called the Khmer Rouge; and the Vietnamese-backed Hun Sen regime.

Tach Reng, a former general in the 1970 Lon Nol government, said the KPNLF was against the entry of Vietnamese illegal immigrants who might affect the upcoming UN-supervised elections in March next year.

He said the "illegal immigrants" problem was complicated by a late 70s treaty between Cambodia and Vietnam which allowed free travel by citizens of the two countries.

But, he pointed out it was the Vietnamese who come to Cambodia as no Cambodians wanted to live in Vietnam.

After the border posts had been set up, Tach Reng said the next step was to introduce a mechanism to identify who were illegals and who were not.

Japanese Opposition Party Chief Pays Visit

OW1005094192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0842 GMT 10 May 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 10 KYODO—Koshiro Ishida, chairman of Japan's second-biggest opposition party Komeito, arrived Sunday in Malaysia on a trip seeking Asian views of plans to send Japanese troops abroad on peacekeeping missions.

Ishida flew in from Phnom Penh to begin the three-day last leg of a three-nation Southeast Asian tour that has already taken him to Thailand and Cambodia.

He is to meet Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Monday, and arrangements were under way for a meeting with either Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed or his deputy Ghafar Baba, a Malaysian Foreign Ministry official said.

Mahathir has said Malaysia has no objections to Japanese troops taking part and even fighting in United Nations peacekeeping missions, as long as they are under U.N. command.

Participation in PKO Welcomed

OW1105110792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1017 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 11 KYODO—Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told Japan's No. 2 opposition party leader Monday that his country welcomes Japan's plan to take part in United Nations peacekeeping operations [PKO], party officials said.

Abdullah told Koshiro Ishida, chairman of the Komeito Party, that Japan's participation in UN peacekeeping operations is a sensitive issue, but that Malaysia "evaluates highly" Japan's full deliberations with Asian nations on the issue.

The Malaysian foriegn minister called for Japan's further economic assistance toward the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and said it is important for as many countries as possible to cooperate in helping reconstruct war-torn Cambodia.

In a separate meeting, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba called on Japan to strengthen relations with Malaysia, saying that Japan has placed primary concern on relations with the United States and Europe, and ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have been secondary.

Urged To Play 'Active Role'

BK1105151792 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1430 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Malaysia wants Japan to play an active role as a peacekeeper under the United Nations. Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the wealthy Japanese could provide aid for the reconstruction of war-torn countries. Datuk Abdullah said this when he received the leadership of Japan's Komeito Party at his office today. He said the delegation wanted to know about Malaysia's views on the Japanese Government's desire to take part in peacekeeping operations. A bill on this matter will be presented at the Japanese parliament in the near future.

The Komeito Party delegation led by Koshiro Ishida, chairman of the party's Executive Committee, also wanted to know about Malaysia's attitude toward Vietnam and Cambodia. Datuk Abdullah told them that Malaysia's policy has been clear following the recent visit of Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed to Vietnam. He said Malaysia wanted Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos as neighboring countries to be peaceful and friendly. At present, they do not pose any security problems in the region.

New Zealand Admiral Views Defense Cooperation

BK1105154592 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1430 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Changes in the security structure involving the United States in Southeast Asia will have no effect on multilateral defense cooperation under the Five-Power Defense Arrangement [FPDA]. Vice Admiral Hunter, commander-in-chief of the Royal New Zealand Navy, said the FPDA is presently able to serve as a defense umbrella for Singapore and Malaysia. The FPDA, made up of Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Singapore, and Malaysia, was established in 1971 to allow the first three countries to hold joint consultations if the two ASEAN member countries are attacked.

Mr. Hunter arrived in Kuala Lumpur today for a five-day official visit. He called on his counterpart, Vice Admiral Datuk Mohamed Sharif Ishak, at the Ministry of Defense. He said New Zealand is satisfied with the current level of cooperation which has, among other things, paved the way for the air defense exercise codenamed [name indistinct] and the naval exercise codenamed "Star Fish" under the FPDA.

Isle Dispute Should Not Affect Singapore Ties

BK0905095492 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0903 GMT 9 May 92

[Text] Johor Baharu, Malaysia, May 9 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia's foreign minister, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, said Saturday the issue of Pulau Batu Putih Island which is being claimed by the southern Johor State and the island Republic of Singapore should not adversely affect the cordial relations existing between the two countries.

He said that an official-level meeting to be held soon would discuss various matters, including the allegation by Singapore that Malaysian fishermen and patrol boats frequently encroach the waters off the island.

"Our officials have prepared the documents required to substantiate our claim. They will submit to me a complete report of the meeting for the benefit of the government," he told reporters.

Pulau Batu Putih is about 15 km off Pengerang, Johor and 55 km from Changi, Singapore. A lighthouse belonging to Singapore is situated on the island and the republic is planning to construct a helipad there.

Abdullah said that Malaysia was also involved in border issues with other countries.

"This is a normal thing with neighbours.... Problems is likely to crop up.... But what is important is the way we overcome the problem," he added.

Cambodia

UNTAC Deputy Says No SRV Troops Discovered

BK1105113492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1116 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 11 (AFP)—U.N. peacekeepers have found no Vietnamese troops in Cambodia since arriving here six months ago, the deputy chief of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said Monday.

Behrooz Sadry told AFP that United Nations troops have investigated numerous reports of a Vietnamese military presence.

"No, we haven't," he said, when asked whether UNTAC, whose advance guard arrived in November, had found any Vietnamese soldiers.

Two Cambodian resistance factions, the Khmer Rouge and the Khmer People's Liberation Front (KPNLF), have repeatedly charged that Vietnamese troops remain in Cambodia in violation of last year's Paris peace treaty. Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1979 to oust the Khmer Rouge from Phnom Penh and install the current government, but Hanoi says it withdrew all its troops in September 1989.

"This whole question of Vietnamese is very bothersome," Sadry told AFP. "Our mandate is to ensure that there is no presence of foreign troops in Cambodia, but it does not extend to settlers."

KPNLF leader Son Sann maintains that there are soldiers among the Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia, who he claims number one million. Phnom Penh puts the number at a few hundred thousand.

UNTAC is setting up checkpoints on the Vietnamese, Thai and Laotian borders as part of its mission to verify that all foreign troops have left Cambodia and that no supplies are reaching the rival armies.

This process is due to be completed by June 13, when UNTAC will start disarming and demobilizing the Cambodian fighters.

Chea Sim Supports Sihanouk Political Model

OW1205063292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0209 GMT 9 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 9 KYODO—Cambodia's senior leader Chea Sim, in an apparent break from Vietnamese-style socialism, declared Friday that the Cambodian People's Party will follow a political system established by Prince Norodom Sihanouk in the late 1950's.

In an interview with KYODO news service, the president of the party and the chairman of the National Assembly said the party has decided to return to Sihanouk's mass political movement called Sungkum Reastr Nium (the People's Socialist Community).

The former Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party, at a party congress in October 1991, adopted a new policy line to abandon Marxist-Leninist ideology, support a multi-party political system, and introduce a free market.

During the interview at party headquarters in Phnom Penh, Chea Sim cited liberal democracy, market economy, human rights protection, and the introduction of foreign capital as the new party policy line.

He told KYODO news service that the liberal democracy is identical to the Sungkum movement under the Sihanouk regime.

Chea Sim also said Sihanouk, current president of a national reconciliatory body known as the Supreme National Council (SNC), welcomes the party's new policy stand.

Diplomatic sources in Phnom Penh said Chea Sim made clear that the Cambodian party will definitely give up Vietnamese-model socialism, and the party disclosed that it will back an alliance with the Sihanouk faction in anticipation of a general election slated for 1993 to establish a new Cambodian Government.

In March 1955, immediately after abdicating his throne, Sihanouk formed the Sungkum mass political movement designed to encompass a wide range of political attitudes united in their loyalty to Sihanouk and the country.

The Sungkum was the only functioning political movement during the Sihanouk era between 1955 and 1970.

While Chea Sim reiterated that he would welcome Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) role in U.N. peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, and he urged Japan to facilitate a decision on the dispatch of Japanese troops to Cambodia.

He also stressed that Japan should play a larger political role in the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, which monitors disarmament of the four warring factions and the transitional period leading up to free elections.

Chea Sim also welcomed Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida's proposal to let the SDF aid U.N. peacekeeping forces in Cambodia by providing logistic support such as medical services, telecommunications, and transportation.

Chea Sim met Ishida in Phnom Penh earlier Friday. He told Ishida he understands Komeito's position and said he would welcome Japanese participation in all fields of the peacekeeping operations.

UN Urged To Deploy Along Eastern Border

BK1005101792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 May 92

["Article": "Control To Ensure That Vietnamese Aggressor Forces Are All Withdrawn From Cambodia Is the Most Important Factor in the Preparation for Free, Democratic, and Just Elections"]

[Text] One of the basic points of the Paris agreement says that the Supreme National Council [SNC] is a legitimate body and the sole source of power during the transition. Along with the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], they share the rights and power to control and ensure that all types of Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia. This is to establish a neutral political atmosphere and security in Phnom Penh and throughout Cambodia for free, democratic, and just elections.

However, how has the clause on the control of Vietnamese aggressor forces been implemented so far? With the goodwill to genuinely establish quick peace, independence, and Cambodia's territorial integrity, the Cambodian national resistance forces have already agreed to let UN forces and four Cambodian parties set up checkpoints and control places in western Cambodia such as Pailin, (?Kop), Chhep, Banteay Meanrit, Malai, Dei Sar, Chamlang Kuoy, and so on.

On the side of the Vietnamese aggressors and their accomplices, so far there has only been an agreement in principle to allow UN forces and the four Cambodian parties to set up checkpoints in eastern Cambodia. In fact, these forces have not been deployed. The Vietnamese aggressors continue to maintain their forces in Phnom Penh and in various provinces. The Vietnamese aggressors continue to bring in troops, weapons, and ammunition to continue the war of aggression and occupation of Cambodia because there is practically no one checking on them.

In such a situation, there is no neutral political atmosphere and security. The Vietnamese aggressors, through the regime Vietnam has propped up, have continued to control state authorities and to decide everything. Elections in such a situation will mean that they are held at Vietnam's gunpoint and under Vietnamese power in Phnom Penh and in various provinces. There is no freedom, no democracy, no justice, no respect for universal principles on human rights, and no respect for the Cambodian people's self- determination.

This is why the Cambodian national resistance forces have consistently proposed that UN forces and the four Cambodian parties set up checkpoints to control Vietnamese aggressor forces in eastern Cambodia according to a clear program this May to establish a neutral political atmosphere and security in Phnom Penh and throughout Cambodia and prepare for free, democratic, and just elections.

Otherwise, war will continue and Cambodia's peace, security, independence will not materialize.

PDK Delegate Addresses Aid Committee Meeting

BK0805052892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] On 5 May, Ambassador Mak Ben, representative of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], took part in the meeting of the committee for technical discussion on the international aid set up by the Supreme National Council [SNC] and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC]. Addressing the meeting, Mak Ben, on behalf of the PDK, expressed sincere thanks to their excellencies the (?deputy) special envoy and the UN secretary general for their reply to a letter dated 30 April of SNC Member Khieu Samphan which stressed clearly that the United Nations always adhered to its impartial stance of treating the four Cambodian factions as equals and that all the aid must be given to Cambodia's SNC.

Mak Ben stressed that for the international aid to really reach the SNC and Cambodian people, it was necessary to arrange for the SNC to have genuine right and power as the unique legitimate body and source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period.

The PDK representative raised questions to the representative of the Phnom Penh faction as follows:

First question: Will the Phnom Penh faction agree to let the SNC play its role fully as the unique legitimate organ and source of power in Cambodia with sufficient right, power, and means to arrange for a neutral political atmosphere throughout Cambodia in line with the spirit and principles of the Paris agreement?

Second question: Will the Phnom Penh faction agree to accept the successive statements made by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the SNC, calling for removal of the (?boundary) dividing Cambodia into four parts so that the SNC can enjoy its right and power?

The Phnom Penh representative did not give immediate answers to these questions but promised the meeting's participants that he would first ask his so-called Council of Ministers. But upon his return to the meeting, he did not bring the answers.

Over 2,700 Refugees Resettled in Battambang

BK0905062092 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0405 GMT 9 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK May 9—More than 2,700 Cambodian refugees, who returned home from the Thailand-based camps, are now resettling in Battambang, a rice-rich province 300 km northwest of Phnom Penh.

According to the provincial Red Cross Committee, the figure is recorded in one month ending late April.

The returnees, grouping in 613 families, stayed at O Taki transit center for a week after their cross-border trip from Thailand, and then were sent to different destinations of their choice.

Battambang is the only province which most of the repatriates have chosen for their resettlement. As planned, Battambang is to receive 60 per cent of the more than 350,000 refugees who are scheduled to return to Cambodia by the end of this year.

Communique Issued on Amnesty for Prisoners

BK0805161092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 8 May 92

["Communique on Granting Humanitarian Amnesty to Prisoners"—date not given; read by announcer]

[Text] 1. In Cambodia, there are a number of people in the various prisons. They are neither war prisoners nor civil law offenders as stipulated in the Paris accords;

2. In the spirit of humanity and reconciliation, the Supreme National Council [SNC] has been requested to consider their amnesty on a humanitarian basis for separate categories for these people. The following are the conditions for granting the pardon:

a. Sick, aged, or immigrant prisoners;

b. Those who have been jailed for a long time and have not yet stood trial by a court of justice;

c. Minor offenders and other prisoners not considered to be a serious threat to society; and

d. Other cases that need to be granted amnesty due to specific humanitarian reasons.

3. The UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia firmly believes the pardon is substantial evidence of Cambodia's humanity and determination to respect the fundamental laws and freedom [words indistinct] of the Cambodian people.

Deputy Premier Comments on Thai Political Unrest

BK1005040692 Bangkok THE NATION in English 10 May 92 p A4

[Text] Phnom Penh—Thailand should draw a lesson from Cambodia that political conflicts can only slow down the pace of development, Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister Tie Banh said here yesterday.

He suggested that the government seek a compromise with the opposition politicians who have staged a massive pro-democracy rally in Bangkok for six days to end the impasse.

"Thailand, as an example to neighbouring countries in Indochina, should solve its internal problem as quickly as possible to restore international confidence in the country," the deputy premier told THE NATION yesterday morning after he inaugurated the first flight of Cambodian International Airlines, the national airline, which flies direct between Phnom Penh and Bangkok.

He said Thailand should learn from the past experiences of Cambodia that political conflicts could ruin the country's political, economic and social development.

But Tie Banh was confident that the political tension in Bangkok would not affect Thai investment in his country, saying that he expected the Suchinda government to continue the policy of promoting Thai investment overseas, particularly in neighbouring countries.

Most foreign investors are reluctant to commit large amounts of money to Cambodia for fear of political instability. But the official said after the general election next year, Cambodia's investment prospects would improve.

Piya Chindapradit, senior vice president of Baan Chang Group and deputy managing director of Cambodian International Airlines, said the Bangkok crisis would leave a lasting scar on the country's economy since it would take time before foreign investors would feel confident about investing here again.

Sihanouk Meets French Envoy 7 May

BK1005115092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 10 May 92

[Text] On the evening of 7 May at Khemarin Palace, His Excellency [H.E.] Phillipe Coste, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of France to Cambodia, was received in audience by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk—head of state, father of the Cambodian nation, and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC]. On that occasion, H.E. the French ambassador presented an antenna for receiving broadcasts of French television to the prince, who profoundly thanked the former for the donation. The prince also expressed his great pleasure with France's participation in enhancing the implementation of the peace accord in Cambodia.

H.E. Phillipe Coste, for his part, wished the prince longevity so he can continue to remain a cooling shade for the Cambodian populace.

Hun Sen Receives Japanese Diet Delegation 8 May

BK1005121492 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 10 May 92

[Text] On the morning of 8 May at the office of the Council of Ministers, His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen—vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia [SOC], and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC]—held talks with a Japanese Diet delegation from the Komeito party led by its chairman, H.E. Koshiro Ishida.

On that occasion, H.E. Hun Sen spoke about the progress of the course of seeking peace and national reunification in Cambodia, adding that the CPP is currently striving to consistently execute the Paris peace accord. He profoundly thanked the Japanese Government for its multifarious assistance in the Cambodian peace process.

In his reply, H.E. Koshiro Ishida expressed his pleasure with the fine result of the Paris peace accord's implementation by the SOC side, which has also created and provided all kinds of facilities to the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia.

Laos

Cambodian Delegation Arrives for Visit 7 May

Meets Phoun Sipaseut

BK0805053292 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, the high-level delegation of the State of Cambodia Government led by Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, met and held a working meeting with the delegation of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] led by Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Soulivong Phasitthidet, deputy foreign affairs minister who attended the meeting with the Lao Government delegation, said that at the working meeting, the high-level delegations of Laos and Cambodia exchanged views on the internal situations and international issues of mutual interest. In addition, the two delegations also discussed mutual cooperation between the two sides in many fields for short- and longer-term periods.

The high-level delegation of the State of Cambodia led by Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, arrived in Vientiane on the morning of the same day to pay a five-day visit to our country at the invitation of Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister. The group is the first high-level delegation of the State of Cambodia to visit our country since the establishment of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] under the chairmanship of Prince Norodom Sihanouk late last year.

On the same evening, Deputy Prime Minister Phoun Sipaseut hosted a reception in honor of Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, at Lan Xang Hotel.

Greets Khamphoui Keoboualapha

BK0905115192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 9 May 92

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, a high-level delegation of the State of Cambodia led by Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, which is currently on a visit to our country, called on and held a working meeting with Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and minister of economics, planning, and finance, at the ministry in Vientiane. Accompanying Khamphoui Keoboualapha in receiving the Cambodian guests on this occasion were deputy ministers from the Trade and Tourism Ministry; the Education and Sports Ministry; the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry; the Communications, Transport, Posts, and Construction Ministry; and the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

In the meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Khamphoui Keoboualapha, together with the various deputy ministers, presented views on experiences achieved by Laos in building and developing the country over the past nearly two decades or since the end of the war, in particular following the implementation of the restructuring policy aimed at broadening relations with foreign countries over the past half decade. Khamphoui Keoboualapha noted: It can be assessed that this policy has been satisfactorily carried out. This correct policy has been continually pursued in our Lao country.

On this occasion, Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, also informed the Lao side of the political situation and the development of Cambodia amid the implementation of work to restore and build Cambodia into a peaceful and independent country and bring about welfare to the Cambodian people. He also hailed the success achieved by the party, government, and people of Laos in developing their country.

On the morning of the same day, the high-level delegation of the State of Cambodia visited the Laos-Japan Friendship Pharmacy and the Lao Plywood Factory in the suburban area of Vientiane. The delegation also left for a visit to Luang Prabang Province yesterday.

Meets President, Prime Minister

BK1105133792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received a courtesy call from Samdech Norodom Chakkrapong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, and his entourage at the Presidential Palace in Vientiane this morning.

The meeting between President Kaysone Phomvihan and Samdech Norodom Chakkrapong proceeded in an atmosphere of intimacy, friendship, and frankness. The LPDR president hailed the prince for visiting Laos, saying that it will contribute to strengthening and making more fruitful the time-honored relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between the two countries. The president also conveyed his greetings and salutations to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, and his wife.

On the same morning, Samdech Norodom Chakkrapong also called on LPDR Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon. During the conversation, the two chatted and exchanged views on various internal and international issues of mutual interest, especially strengthening relations and cooperation between Laos and Cambodia.

On the evening of the same day, the high-level delegation of the State of Cambodia headed by Samdech Norodom Chakkrapong left by a special plane for the SRV to pay an official visit to that country.

Meeting Held With Thai Border Team in Sanakham

BK1005054892 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 9 May 92

[Text] The third meeting of the special task units of the Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao Border Security Maintenance Cooperation Committees was held in Sanakham District, Vientiane Province with the Lao side as host.

Attending the meeting, in addition to Colonel Phommachak Souththisan, head of the Lao side, and Colonel Samroeng Chantharukha, head of the Thai side, were authorities from the two sides and some guests concerned.

At the meeting, the Lao side, with the assistance of local Lao authorities, pointed out some untoward incidents that have occurred in Sanakham District. It also restated a proposal for the two sides to set up special local work units to exchange experience and resolve problems in a timely manner, as well as to facilitate prompt meetings between the two sides in the future aimed at maintaining peace along the border and preserving the relations of good neighborliness between Laos and Thailand.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the two sides unanimously agreed to hold the next meeting in Thailand's Nong Khai Province. The committees extended profound thanks to Somchin, chief of Sanakham District, and all services concerned and local residents for giving full support and cooperation to the committees by making preparations for the meeting, such as decorating the meeting site, providing board and lodging to the participants, and organizing strict security measures for the meeting.

Thai Cooperation 'Not Carried Out'

BK1105110092 Vientiane KPL in English 0912 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Vientiane, May 11 (KPL)—The Lao and Thai border security operation teams under the Joint Committee for Common Border Security of the two countries, on May 7, held in Sanakham District, Lao Vientiane Province, their regular meeting for this month.

The issue on suppression of Lao rebel groups in exile in Thai soil remained on the top of the meeting agenda. The sides exchanged information on border situation of their respective side. The Lao side reiterated on cooperation from the Thai side in the matter which had not been practically carried out as already agreed upon.

The Lao side indicated that due to lack of the cooperation, many issues remained unsolved, in particular the suppression of exile Lao rebels. The head of the Lao team said that unless measures to solve them are taken, the longer the issues prevail, the more the negative effects will be since the Lao rebels not only are unlawful to both countries but also violate the international law, especially those committing narcotic drug trafficking.

The Lao side insisted that from now to July, the two sides must ask their respective joint committee for common border security to encourage the bordering provinces of the two countries to have early talks. At the least in May, the talks must be held between Bolikhamsai and Nong Khai, and between Vientiane and Loei in order to seek early solutions to the remaining problems.

Party Official Meets CPV CC Economic Team

BK1105095092 Vientiane KPL in English 0901 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Vientiane, May 11 (KPL)—The delegations of the Boards of the Office of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee (LPRP CC) and of the Office of the Council of Ministers, and of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee (CPV CC) held talks here on May 9, 1992.

The Lao side was headed by Mr. Somsavat Lengsavat, LPRP CC member and head of the Office of the Council of Ministers, and the Vietnamese side by Mr. Nguyen Ha Phan, CPV CC secretary and head of the CPV CC Economic Board.

The two sides discussed and exchanged experiences in the work of the party office of each country during the renovation period as well as in the period of widening of ties and cooperation with abroad by the two countries. The discussion was aimed at developing the ties of special friendship between the parties, states and people of the two countries.

On the same morning, the visiting Vietnamese delegation had held talks with the Board of the Banking Committee of the Lao People's Democratic Republic headed by Mrs. Pani Yathotou, LPRP CC member and president of the said committee.

Visiting Australian Official Plans Nuclear Meeting

BK0805144992 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] Vientiane, May 8 (KPL)—Lao Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. [His Excellency] Mr. Souban Salitthilat, on May 6, received the Australian ambassador, Mr. Michael Mann, and a visiting Australian disarmament official, Mr. Patrick Cole, for talks about global chemical weapons (CW) disarmament.

Mr. Cole, who is director, chemical and biological disarmament, in the Disarmament Bureau of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, outlined arrangements for the seminar.

Preparations are also being made for the seminar to issue a final statement in support of the current negotiation of the global Chemical Weapons Conventon (CWC); at the conference on disarmament in Geneva, and of preparatory confidence-building activity by regional states.

Both sides found the talks useful and look forward to a fruitful continuing regional collaboration in support of deep, clear, and mutual commitment to a global ban on chemical weapons.

Mr. Cole is currently visiting capitals in Southeast Asia for consultations with regional governments and chemical industry in preparation for a regional CW disarmament seminar to be hosted by Australia in Sydney 21-23 June. Senior policy representatives have been invited from 20 countries of the Asia/Pacific region, including Laos, according to the press release of the embassy.

Saman Vi-gnaket on Education, Environment Issues

BK1105115392 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Vientiane, May 11 (KPL)—Education and Sports Minister Saman Vi-gnaket, on May 8, granted here an interview to local mass media on issues of education and environment while the entire country is preparing for the celebration of the International Day of Cultural Development.

The minister in his interview underlined the role of education and environment saying that an urgent strategy on environment conservation in which education on environment played an important role and was to be carried out from primary through tertiary levels.

He also said UNESCO was directly concerned with and played an active role in promoting education on environment by encouraging country members to draw up national education policies as well as curriculum projects containing efforts to preserve environment and nature for schools at various levels.

In Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] alone, the minister indicated that the educational strategy from now up to the year 2000 laid emphasis on educational activities related to environment preservation for both formal and informal systems of education at all levels. This was designed to develop conscience and attitude in terms of preserving natural resources and environment. In other words, children have been educated to have knowledge as well as ability in and to be familiar with environment conservation.

He came to a conclusion that the coming celebration of the International Day of Cultural Development on May 21 this year would be an important campaign mobilizing the community to take part in preserving cultural and natural heritages of the nation.

In this connection, the education minister called on all concerned services and the general public to participate in the activities of educating the people to be aware of the environment conservation and of the danger to life and society, particularly whenever environment has been degraded. He stressed that everybody had to bear in mind that the preservation of the value and wealth of the natural environment was beneficial to upgrading the life quality of the mankind.

Logging in Vientiane Province Ordered Suspended

BK1105105492 Vientiane KPL in English 0917 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Vientiane, May 11 (KPL)—Tree extraction in Vientiane Province on land, including those submerged in Nam

Ngum catchment area, in the past was not done in accordance with the Order No. 117 of the Council of Ministers, disclosed the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The ministry, therefore, referred to the Council of Ministers' Order No. 11 ordering the Vientiane Province to close the forest in entire province on land and those in Nam Ngum reservoir. This involved the suspension of logging business previously authorized by the Vientiane Province Administration to 44 individuals, companies, and projects.

The suspension of the tree extraction has come into effect since July 14, 1991, an official of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry recalled.

In Nam Ngum reservoir, six companies were authorised by the province to extract trees submerged in the water with conditions that the companies involved had to clean up the areas which they operated. However, that was not done and there were instances of breaches of contracts, such as cutting rose wood trees where contracts did not allow, or other forms of profit seeking without paying heeds to the public interests.

The ministry also disclosed that faults also lied in the provincial administration which arbitrarily gave concessions to individuals and companies without actual inspection of the forest conditions.

While logging business was operated, 3,000 cubic metres of rose wood were exported, the profit from such transaction did not benefit the state.

Philippines

Rebel Group Says U.S. Manipulating Elections

HK1205082792 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0740 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Police and military men are now deployed around National Power Corporation [Napocor] and Manila Electric Company transmission lines and towers. This is in relation to an earlier bombing of Napocor's transmission towers in Paranaque, Malabon, Valenzuela, Caloocan, and South Expressway by still unidentified men. It will be recalled that policemen thwarted an attempt to bomb Napocor towers in Meycauayan, Bulacan, and the Marcos Highway at 0700 this morning. General Cesar Nazareno advised the public not to worry if they saw some troop movements aimed only at ensuring power supplies during the Vote counting. We repeat the annoucement: Do not get worried if you see troop movements as these are necessary to ensure the flow of power especially at this time of ballot counting.

Here is a flash report: The National Revolutionary Alliance [RAM] has released an urgent press statement signed by their spokesman Gabriel Dimasupil. The statement has been sent to all radio and television stations, newspapers, and international wire services. The press statement said that a military group connected with the Aquino-Ramos-De Villa-Abadia-Nazareno group has attempted to bomb Napocor relay stations in Valenzuela and transmission lines in Navotas, Malabon, Caloocan, and other parts of the National Capital Region [NCR].

According to the RAM, this was discovered by two of their deep penetration agents [DPAs] in the military. They said this is part of the plan to cause a blackout in the NCR area in preparation for manipulating the election results to ensure administration candidate Fidel Ramos wins. These DPAs have allegedly even helped the police and the authorities locate and defuse the 24 boxes of explosives with timers, which would have exploded simultaneously between 2200 last night and 0100 at dawn [as heard] today. According to the RAM, the information they gathered shows that this Media Citizens Quick Count [MCQC] was organized and founded by the U.S. Department of State to manipulate the election to favor Fidel Ramos and other administration candidates. According to the RAM statement, which is true because we monitor the MCQC, the full operation of the MCQC, including the data bank and its computers which are connected to several media organization, are located at the La Salle-Greenhills compound in Mandaluyong, Ortigas Avenue.

The RAM has warned through this press statement that as of 1800 this afternoon their forces will be placed on alert to move against the government if it pushes through with its manipulation of the election. Signed by Gabriel Dimasupil, spokesman of the RAM.

Vigilance Urged as Election Result Nears

HK1205031192 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 12 May 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Not Time Yet for us To Lower our Guard"]

[Text] It's all over but the counting. Before the day is over, local candidates will know how their constituents have responded to their bids for various public offices. Those seeking the highest political offices from president down to senators will have to sweat it out a little longer while the counting of votes continues until a definite trend is established one or two days from now. Never mind what the exit polls and the unofficial media tallies say; they could be wrong. As they hope for the best, they must continue to make sure nothing happens to the election returns on the way to the different boards of canvassers, Congress especially.

Generally peaceful, is how the situation at yesterday's polling was described, generally. The term did not quite capture the confusion that hit several precincts, both in Metro Manila and the provinces and which raised some doubts about the Comelec's [Commission on Elections] readiness in conducting the polls.

The effect on voters unable to cast their votes due to the confusion over changed precincts and new voters' lists will become clearer in the next few days. For instance, in Irosin, Sorsogon the situation was so desperate poll officials even considered making use of "temporary ballots" to fill the shortage. We can only hope that the overall picture does not show fatal cracks in the electoral process.

Violence, the most intensely watched measure of the success or failure of the process, seems to have been held down to much lower levels than in previous elections. Police officials interviewed in most television programs yesterday had a good time trotting out statistics to show that this year's election period was marred by fewer violent incidents and fewer casualties of the electoral battles. However, the figures are not all in yet and they are bound to rise. It may well be that statistical comparisons will show 1992 to have been less violent than the others. Still one life too many has been wasted in what is supposed to be the most sacred expression of democratic rights.

More cheering is the fact that at no other time have citizens and citizens' groups taken such an active hand nationwide in ensuring free and orderly polls. No doubt important lessons have been offered by the present exercise that will be helpful in the next elections three years from now. Both the Comelec and the citizenry need to develop skills and organizational capabilities so that future exercises will be conducted with more orderliness.

With all the votes cast, the election period has entered another critical phase: the final determination of the popular will will come only after the proclamation of the winners. It is not yet time for the citizens' groups to let their guard down. Continued vigilance is needed to ensure that the final results reflect the popular will. And after the process is finally done, the candidates and their leaders must lead the nation in respecting the popular mandate.

Unofficial Results Show Santiago Leading Election

HK1205003892 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Former Agrarian Reform Secretary Miriam Defensor Santiago of the People's Reform Party is leading in the presidential race, according to the first unofficial results.

The latest results of a tabulation done by ABS-CBN show Santiago leading with 159,272 votes, followed by Fidel Ramos with 120,407; Danding Cojuangco with 104,925; Salonga with 75,477; Marcos with 53,563; Mitra with 39,488; and Laurel with 15,785.

In the vice presidential stakes, Joseph Estrada leads with 197,275 followed by Ramon Magsaysay, Jr. with 86,396; Fernan with 80,795; Osmena with 78,612; Pimental with 67,684; Vic Magsaysay with 23,360; and Kalaw with 7,140.

'Tenuous Lead' Described

HK1205085292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0819 GMT 12 May 92

[By Peter Mackler]

[Text] Manila, May 12 (AFP)—Former judge Miriam Santiago, a political novice crusading against corruption, clung Tuesday [12 May] to a tenuous lead over ex-defence chief Fidel Ramos in the race for the Philippine presidency.

With nearly four percent of the estimated 27 million votes tallied from Monday's election, Santiago had 28.4 percent to 23.6 percent for Ramos, who ran with the strong backing of outgoing President Corazon Aquino.

Tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco, a crony of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, was third with 15.2 percent in the results reported by Philippine television. Four other candidates were given little chance of winning the most orderly election in the country's recent history.

Analysts cautioned that the initial results were only sketchy and came mainly from the cities. But early returns also showed surprising rural strength for Santiago despite her lack of an organisation to pull out and monitor votes.

An aide to Cojuangco said their own count showed the beer and coconut baron running second to Santiago but conceded that the early returns were a source of "discomfort."

Santiago, 46, a maverick populist who plunged into her first campaign for office with evangelical zeal, said on national television Tuesday that "I feel we have established an irreversible trend."

The former immigration commissioner said voters had "responded with overwhelming enthusiasm to the call for reform in the present system of traditional politics... protected by the oligarchy."

While the contest to replace Aquino stayed tight, early returns in the vice presidential race gave a commanding lead to Joseph Estrada, a macho screen star who stumped as Cojuangco's runningmate. Ticket-splitting is allowed here.

Vote tallying also proceeded slowly in the races for both houses of congress as well as more than 17,000 local posts, with counters struggling to manually add up votes from ballots with as many as 40 handwritten names. A "quick count" operation mounted by media groups here appeared to be little help in clarifying the results, running well behind the semi-official figures broadcast before formal certification.

Former first lady Imelda Marcos, who drew considerable media attention with her candidacy despite virtually no chance of victory, called for a halt to release of partial returns she said could not be officially verified. "They only create false impressions on the people. Anybody can take advantage of the situation by faking the vote count," said Marcos, whose husband was accused of being a skillful vote-stealer himself.

Some officials said it would take up to a few days to establish a trend given the archaic tallying process, hampered in some spots by occasional power outages which forced counters to work by candlelight. Police stepped up security around power lines after saboteurs dynamited several power pylons in the outskirts of Manila overnight, plunging several districts under temporary darkness. Army sappers disarmed time bombs planted in two other pylons.

No new incidents of violence were immediately reported. A total of 82 people have been killed in poll-related incidents during the three-month election process, a relatively low total in a country where bloodshed and ballots are usual companions.

Santiago Comments on Early Returns

HK1205050892 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation Channel 2 in Tagalog 0230 GMT 12 May 92

[Interview with Miriam Defensor Santiago by Loren Legarda and Angelo Castro at ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation Channel 2 studio in Quezon City—live in English; monitored in progress]

[Excerpts] [Santiago] ...I was ambivalent and I went jogging.

[Castro] I believe....

[Legarda, interrupting] You know Angelo, she jogs at the Quezon Memorial Circle almost every day.

What is your general assessment of the conduct of the elections, Miriam?

[Santiago] First of all, the weather conditions were better than forecast. It was sunny and the temperature was moderate, so we had a very heavy turnout. That was one of the reasons why we had 85 percent turnout yesterday, which is all to the good. And then, from my own personal observation, apparently the turnout started very early in the morning, even before seven o'clock when the precincts opened. And the predominant population of those who turned out early were very young, they were either college students or they must have been young urban professionals. And we all know that these are the most committed and the most idealistic segment of our voting population. So we must congratulate the country itself that the democratic electoral process was apparently preserved intact as a showcase for the rest of the world yesterday.

[Castro] To what do you attribute, Miriam, this very good showing that, well, is in the polls. To what do you attribute this?

[Santiago] Number one, the deliberate and purposeful and highly committed campaign of propaganda launched by the Commission on Elections [Comelec] pursuant to the mandate of the Constitution. For the first time in our electoral history, the governmental agency charged with conscientisizing [as heard] the public was able to discharge its functions to the fullest. I am referring to the Commission on Elections, under the leadership of Chairman Christian Monsod.

So the Filipino electorate was literally bombarded with media advertisements and announcements about the need to vote on election day and the need to vote out of conscience. Apparently, this message successfully penetrated the consciousness of the voting public.

And we will also have to give credit to the Catholic Church, through its Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting [PPCRV]. After going around the country during the campaign period, I can tell you that the PPCRV was in place nationwide in even the remotest towns and barangays.

[Legarda] Miriam, to what could you attribute your good showing in certain areas where your... [Legarda changes thought] where the opposition did not expect you to put up a good show, like in Southern Tagalog or Region 4?

[Santiago] I never had any doubt that if the governmental agencies, as well as the nongovernmental organizations, who had taken it upon themselves to maintain our elections at a clean and honest level, would succeed in the self-imposed mission; I never had any doubt that I would not only take the lead, but eventually prove victorious. Because as we went around the country, I realized that I had an authentic and legitimate mass base. Whether I deserve it or not might be another question as far as my critics are concerned, but I did see that the Filipino people, everywhere I went, responded with overwhelming enthusiasm to the call for reform in the present system of traditional politics, which has been traditionally, historically practiced and protected by the oligarchy in our country.

I feel it is simply a confluence of events in modern times. You'll notice that in the rest of the international community, in the latest elections they've had in the United Kingdom, reform is also the hallmark of the final result of the electoral process. So this is constantly a phenomenon of reform confined not only to the Philippines, but a phenomenon which is common to the rest of the international community. [passage omitted]

[Legarda] Give us a message to the Filipino people. Would you like to thank the electorate and the Comelec for a generally clean and honest election?

[Santiago] I feel jubilant not only because I have taken the early lead in what, after all, are unofficial, partial results of our elections yesterday. I feel jubilant even more because I believe that our electoral process yesterday constituted a triumph of democracy over the system of corrupt politics perpetrated by an oligarchy in our country for decades. There is, therefore, a positive basis to hope that the future of the Philippines, particularly for the next eight years, the last eight years of this century before we enter the 21st century, which the economic experts predict will be called the century of the Pacific Rim, where the Philippines is located, that is to say in the next century we are forecast to be in the center of the area of highest economic growth. During that period, we have high hopes now to be optimistic that the Filipino people will enter the century of the Pacific Rim as one of the most politically sophisticated and mature constituencies in this region of the world.

We must, therefore, give thanks to divine providence and also to all the many unsung heroes and heroines of election day yesterday. This includes not only the Comelec personnel, led by no less than their own chairman, Christian Monsod, but also the public school teachers, the members of the PPCRV, the youth volunteers of all the nongovernmental organizations, and particularly my own youth volunteers of the People's Reform Party. The gratitude of the nation is rightfully laid at the doorstep of these heroes and heroines of the Philippine elections.

Ramos on Anticipated Victory, Ties With Spain

LD1105153692 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Over five and a half hours ago the polls closed in the Philippines, and although the data from the count are still not at all reliable, they point to a victory in the presidential elections for Fidel Ramos, Cory Aquino's former defense minister, or possibly Miriam Santiago, a judge noted for her struggle against corruption in the country. In any event, until tomorrow there will not be enough data to determine who is the winner, who will be the new Filipino head of state, although Fidel Ramos, the former defense minister, is almost convinced of his victory.

This is what he said in an interview given to RNE in which Corazon Aquino's favored candidate explained what his objectives would be if, finally, his victory at the polls is confirmed. Here is a report from correspondent Frank Sevilla:

[Sevilla] Although Fidel Ramos does not want to celebrate yet, he does say that he is optimistic and that the data at his disposal at the moment confirms that he is in the lead. In an interview given from Manila to RNE, the former defense minister says that if he wins the presidency his government program will have three basic objectives: to achieve political stability, economic development, and social justice for the Philippines:

[Begin Ramos recording in English, fading into Spanish translation] It is a total program of political action, community development, economic progress and social justice that comprises a package of measures to combat the left-wing groups and the military rebels. [end recording]

[Sevilla] Fidel Ramos says he is convinced that he can attract foreign investment to the Philippines, which will favor economic development. To this end he says he will strengthen the democratic system, which will permit political stability. The presidential candidate is not worried about the guerrilla activity of the communist New People's Army. The former minister of defense says the communist guerrillas do not have any base in the urban centers and areas vital to the economy, but rather in the mountains and jungles, from which, according to Ramos, they cannot harm the country. Regarding the military, who staged seven attempted coups d'etat during Corazon Aquino's term of office, Fidel Ramos believes that the Filipino Armed Forces are loyal to democracy and that the putschists, who remain hidden, are not strong enough to be considered a threat:

[Begin Ramos recording] In fact that is why we were successful in overcoming seven coups d'etat and this has strengthened our Constitution and the democratic system. During these seven coup attempts the Armed Forces remained a loyal institution in order to protect the government and our democracy. [end recording]

[Sevilla] Fidel Ramos is confident of maintaining and even improving Manila's relations with Washington despite the closure of the U.S. bases in the Philippines, which was decided by the Filipino Senate. Neither does the presidential candidate see any problems in his relationship with the Catholic Church, a very strong institution in the archipelago. According to Ramos, the fact that he is a Protestant does not mean that the Catholics are going to oppose him.

Regarding Spain, the former minister of defense says that relations are excellent and that he is going to work to maintain these relations and boost them in the future, even insofar as the Spanish language is concerned, a language that Fidel Ramos is confident will not be forgotten in the Philippines:

[Begin Ramos recording] I do think that there is a great future for relations between Spain and the Philippines. We hope to get investment from Spain and we have a relationship that goes back more than 300 years. I think that the Philippines would be a good destination for tourist investment. [end recording]

Elections Official Says Situation 'Peaceful'

HK1105072892 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] The start of elections has been generally peaceful despite some reports of it being delayed in several areas, especially in Metro Manila. This was the observation made by Commission on Elections [Comelec] Chairman Christian Monsod. Monsod explained that the delay was caused by municipal treasurers who were late in filing their requisitions for election paraphernalia.

There were also reports of voters not being allowed to vote due to the lack of voting precincts and election materials. Others were not allowed to vote because their names were not on the official voter's list.

In Manila, six candidates have asked Comelec to change its ruling on candidates having the same name. They have asked the poll body to determine their identities based on the name of the presidential candidate they are affiliated with.

In Bulacan, Comelec has deployed more troops in the town of Meycauayan. According to Comelec Commissioner Vicente de Lima, this is because of the tension caused by the decision of several election registrars to transfer 5,000 voters to another precinct.

In Rosario, La Union, the houses of a mayoralty candidate, his campaign manager, and a reelection councillor were riddled with bullets. No casualties were reported.

In Urdaneta, Pangasinan, two policemen were killed when they tried to stop the jeep of five armed supporters of a mayoralty candidate. According to the Philippine National Police, the policemen were on their way to Pinmaludpod, Pangasinan, when they encountered the men of mayoralty candidate Lorenzo Mateo. Mateo's men shot at the policemen, prompting the police to shoot back. The shoot-out resulted in the death of Jose Calidosa and Melencio Romeo Mateo.

Elections were also delayed in Marawi city and in several towns in Lanao del Sur due to the lack of election materials. Flash reports from Marawi indicate that elections in the province started at 10:00.

In Davao, ABS-CBN correspondents have reported the loss of 4,000 ballots in Katalong, Davao del Norte.

A total of 67 person have been killed in election-related violence. This is after seven more people were killed in several separate incidents. Two policemen died when they tried to stop the supporter of a mayoralty candidate in Urdaneta, Pangasinan. In Mindanao, three armed men killed the wife of Bigas, Davao del Sur's mayor.

In Davao del Norte, one man was killed and eight others were injured when their vehicle was ambushed by several unidentified men.

Three persons were killed in (Giuwaras) when the former governor's son was ambushed this morning.

Despite the reported violence, Comelec Chairman Monsod still expressed optimism that the elections today will be peaceful.

Reviews Election Events

HK1105134592 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1310 GMT 11 May 92

[Statement by Commission on Elections Chairman Christian Monsod issued at the poll body's main office in Intramuros, Manila—live, in English]

[Text] The Commission on Elections [Comelec] would like to congratulate the voters, the teachers, and all of our deputies for their remarkable place in the democratic process. We salute the teachers, even as they are still working through the night, counting and canvassing the votes. We know that there were instances in which they were harrassed and sometimes unnecessarily accused, even for honest mistakes. They are our frontliners, the guardians and indispensable elements of the election process. The Comelec is proud of the teachers.

We like to thank our other deputies, the brave men and women of the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines by helping minimize the incidents of violence in our country and serving the higher interest of the country, and of course, our own field personnel. Above all, we would like to salute the voters and the volunteers, who through their vigilance have proven that we can conduct honest, orderly and credible elections. The real winners, of course, are the Filipino people. We continue to ask all of our countrymen to continue to be vigilant because everything is not yet over until the winners are proclaimed.

In the ultimate analysis, the real winners are the Filipino people to whom all the credits belong.

We would like to give you an update of the regional summaries of the commission. Region 1, except for that incident yesterday, the situation appeared to be under control. Cordillera is peaceful with no report of untoward accident, except for the fighting going on between the military and the NPA [New People's Army] in Cagayan and in Kalinga-Apayao. There were some delays in the ballots in Tabuk, Rizal, and Pinukpuk.

In Region 2, there was an estimated 72 percent turnout. Peace and order is still normal.

In Region 3, there was an 80 percent turnout and it is generally peaceful. We are still waiting for the summary for Region 4, the largest region.

In Region 5, an estimate of about 80-90 percent turnout was reported. There was a report that 8,000 official ballots were missing. Another verified that there was just a delay in delivery. The voting at Irosin, Sorsogon began at 1000 this morning.

In Region 6, there was an estimated 70 percent turnout. In Kalibo [Aklan], there was an encounter between the communist rebels and the 12th Infantry Battalion. Three precincts failed to function because of this encounter.

Also, two troopers of the 15th Infantry Battalion were killed by communist terrorists while escorting ballot boxes in Barangay Nagba, Tubuyan, Iloilo. However, the ballot boxes were not stolen. The ballot boxes are intact. These casualties, the latest casualties in Iloilo, brings the total casualties to date on election-related violence to 51.

Region 7 is peaceful. Region 8 recorded an 80 percent turnout and is generally peaceful. Region 9, despite previous objections by Citizens Armed (D-3) and Governor Salappudin, the election continued, no boycott occurred.

There was a shooting incident in Jolo, Sulu where three bodyguards of Governor Jabid Luong were shot dead while insisting on entering the precinct.

Region 10 recorded a 90 percent turnout. Election is peaceful. Nine persons were apprehended for violation of the gunban.

Region 11 has an estimated 75-80 percent turnout. No irregularities and no delays in voting.

Region 12, as we previously announced, there were failures of elections in 12 out of 37 municipalities of Lanao del Sur. However, the voting continued in 25 municipalities in Marawi city and most of the reason was that there were no members of the Board of Election Inspectors.

We would like to mention that there are some disturbances going on in Macabebe [Pampanga].

Dynamite Found Near Electric Power Facilities

Cable Posts Bombed in Sucat

HK1105140492 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1305 GMT 11 May 92

[By Joey Falcon]

[Text] Three Meralco [Manila Electric Company] posts along the South Superhighway, two kms from the Sucat Bridge leading to Manila, were bombed. Explosives were placed on the posts, which were made of metal. The explosions reduced the size of the posts by half. Men from the Regional Special Action Force are investigating the incident, particularly Police Officer 3 Abayon:

[Begin Abayon recording] I cannot say what bomb was used here because the evidence gathered, like the time fuse we recovered, will still be subjected to laboratory examination. A highly explosive bomb was used. A mini-type bomb. [end recording]

The post is very big and cannot be embraced by a person, and carries a lot of electrical cables. [passage indistinct]

Dynamite Seized Near Towers

HK1205093292 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0854 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Here is a report giving additional details on the bundles of dynamite found in three locations within the Caloocan, Navota, Malabon, Valenzuela areas. There was an earlier report on attempts to bomb several facilities of the National Power Corporation last night and early this morning to cause a Metro Manila-wide brownout. Here is Romy Llansa with the details:

[Begin Llansa recording] As of broadcast time, the dynamite is being stored in the Northern Police District. The police were informed of the discovery of the dynamite at 1245 today, after some of it had already exploded. Power posts in Bignay, Valenzuela in Metro Manila, Camarin in Caloocan city, and Malabon, Metro Manila were bombed. The bundle of 240 sticks of dynamite found in Bignay, Valenzuela, Metro Manila has been seized by the LRU [expansion unknown]. In Palmera, Caloocan, 160 sticks of dynamite were also found and taken away at 1440 today. In Letra Road in Malabon, authorities found and seized 19 sticks of dynamite at 0400 this morning. Taking the dynamite away were bomb experts Police Officers 3d Class Lorenzo Sabog, Jonathan Josue, and Jaime Alipay and Seargeant Ernesto Bautista. They were led by Inspector Jaime de Leon of the Caloocan Police. [end recording]

Police Ordered To Thwart Saboteurs

HK1205085092 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0800 GMT 12 May 92

[By Rowena Papasin]

[Excerpts] Malacanang has ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] and the Philippine National Police [PNP] to ensure that there will be no further attempts to sabotage the proclamation of the next president of the country.

The directive was issued by Malacanang along with orders for the authorities to thoroughly investigate the bombings that occurred last night. The attempt to bomb transmitter lines of the National Power Corporation [Napocor] during the counting of election returns last night failed. The authorities were able to defuse the time bombs planted at the base of the Napocor transmitter line in barangay Dignay, Valenzuela, Bulacan.

Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon condemned the attempt, which he believes was the doing of either military or communist rebels. According to Drilon, this is an attempt to silence the will of the people. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording, in English] [Drilon] It is a dastardly act, an attempt to again disrupt our peaceful and orderly elections. It was an attempt to defeat the people's will. But again they have failed and we will be able to choose our next leader in an orderly manner.

[Reporter] Sir, have you identified the suspects?

[Drilon] No, we have not identified who is responsible but I think only very isolated groups would have the motive to do this.

[Reporter] Sir, is it the ultra-right or the ultra-left?

[Drilon] Its either the ultra-right or the ultra-left who would do this.

[Reporter] What are the special [word indistinct] to General Abadia and Nazareno on this issue [word indistinct]?

[Drilon] First and foremost, to do everything in order that we can proceed to proclaim the winner. That is very critical. As part of that, therefore, there will be a continued effort to prevent the underground of both the left and the right to disrupt the proclamation of election winners. [end recording]

Roundup of Election-Related Violence, Fraud

HK1205032992 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 12 May 92 pp 1, 2

[By Dario P. Agnote]

[Text] Suspected communist guerillas killed three Army soldiers and wounded four others conducting a security patrol in a remote barangay in Iloilo after the close of yesterday's general elections, a belated report reaching Camp Crame last night said.

Reports said soldiers belonging to the Army's 15th Infantry Batallion were on their way back to the poblacion [small town] from barangay Nagba in Tubungan town aboard a military jeep when waylaid by an undetermined number of New People's Army rebels at 6:25 p.m. yesterday.

The report only identified two of the slain soldiers as Corporal Neil Camarista and Private First Class Jimmy Casalem. Those wounded were identified as Sergeant Luisito Gonzaga, Corporal Ramil Estola, Corporal Jose Elunido and Corporal Samuel Muel.

The wounded soldiers were immediately taken to the Western Visayas Hospital in Iloilo City, the report said.

In Jolo, Sulu, police officials said three armed supporters of Sulu Governor Tupay Loong were slain in a shootout between the governor's armed bodyguards and the Marine soldiers manning the polling center there.

The reports said Loong's bodyguards insisted on entering a precinct in State Colleges of Jolo trying to defy the Marine soldiers' directive for them not to enter the polling center. A brief shouting match broke out which resulted in the shootout, the report said.

Those killed were identified as Amil Adji, a certain Ayub and a certain Joma. There was no casualty on the government side, the report said.

But the polls were still relatively peaceful, despite the 11 persons killed in at least eight election-related incidents throughout the country, police officials said.

The Philippine National Police [PNP] Election Monitoring and Action Center (Emac) at Camp Crame also received reports about ballot-snatching, vote-buying, arrested flying voters [voters who vote more than once], kidnappings, and missing names in the voters' lists, but the cases were reportedly minimal.

"The situation was relatively peaceful and orderly as compared with the situation during the previous elections," said PNP Deputy Director General Gerardo Flores, adding that based on the reports only seven were reported killed and nine wounded in the election-related incidents that took place last Sunday and yesterday.

Flores said the police recorded at least 386 incidents during the 1986 elections, 234 during the 1987 polls, and 268 during the 1988 polls. During the 1986 elections, at least 151 persons were killed and 156 wounded; during the 1987 polls, 87 persons were reported killed and 77 wounded; and in 1988, 149 persons were killed and 86 wounded.

Following are the election-related incidents that reached the PNP Operations Center yesterday: In Kapatagan, Davao del Sur, three unidentified men shot dead the wife of reelectionist Mayor Juanito Morales at around 6:30 a.m. Sunday. The report said the mayor's wife, Josephine, died with several gunshot wounds in the chest when armed men opened fired at the mayor's house at sitio Cometa in Kapatagan.

In Sta. Ana in Manila, unidentified suspects lobbed explosives at the house of congressional candidate Chino Marquinez at 2409 Syquia Street at around 1:30 a.m. yesterday. A female supporter of Marquinez sustained slight bruises in the body, the report said.

In Misamis Oriental, local police authorities yesterday arrested nine alleged "armed goons" of a certain Boy Hoy, an LDP mayoral candidate in Villanueva town. The report said the goons were led by Airman First Class Isidro Ranoco assigned with the PAF [Philippine Air Force] Composite Air Support Force-10 based in Cagayan de Oro.

Police recovered six .38 caliber revolvers, a .22 caliber revolver, a fragmentation grenade, two Icom handheld radios and several rounds of ammunition from the suspects, said the report. The suspects were reportedly aboard a Ford van with plate number LDB-297 when they were spotted by policemen at the San Martin highway in Villanueva.

In Guimaras island in Iloilo, three persons were reported killed and two others wounded Sunday when armed supporters of a political rival of Jordan, Guimaras Mayor Leo Espinosa opened fire at the mayor's jeep at sitio Pulangpula in Jordan.

Killed were Leo Philip Espinosa, 23, Leo Ellis, 22, and Edgardo Mandarico, 40. Those wounded were identified as Jesus Delima, 40, and a certain Jiony.

In Anilao, Iloilo, two were reported killed and two others wounded in a shootout in barangay Palaypay last Sunday. The sketchy report said the victims who were not identified in the report were fired upon by police forces. Iloilo police officials are still looking into the case.

In Urdaheta, Pangasinan, a policeman was killed and another was badly wounded early yesterday morning when police forces manning a checkpoint engaged in a shootout with armed bodyguards of mayoral bet retired general Lorenzo Mateo whose party affiliation was unknown.

In San Jose City, suspected NPA [New People's Army] insurgents torched two Baliwag Transit Aircon buses shortly after midnight yesterday. No one was reported hurt.

In Sorsogon, Irosin municipal treasurer Miguel Tan reported that two ballot boxes intended for Irosin were found missing two hours before the start of the elections yesterday morning. The Sorsogon Comelec registrar had recommended the temporary postponement of the electoral process.

In Sultan Kudarat, two ballot boxes intended for barangay Dugurangan were reported snatched by unidentified armed men at around 2:20 a.m. yesterday.

In Lanao del Norte, Comelec, PNP and AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] officials discovered four ballot boxes in Nunungan town. Investigation is still going on.

In Ilocos Norte, an undetermined number of bodyguards of incumbent Mayor Joseph de Lara of Sulsuna, who is seeking reelection under the NPC-KBL [Nationalist People's Coalition-New Society Movement] banner, reportedly harassed and threatened four supporters of Samuel Balantac by firing sophisticated high powered firearms at barangay Katagaran. The victims—Regundo Balaoo, Gaspar Ramiro, Moises Sibayan and Juan Ballesteros—claimed that they were fired upon by De Lara's goons with two Uzi machine pistol, two baby Armalites and two Armalite rifles.

Death Toll Reaches 11

HK1205011792 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] More blood has been spilled during the election despite an announcement by the Commission on Elections that the polls were fairly peaceful.

According to the Philippine National Police [PNP], a total of 11 persons have been killed in various parts of the country.

In Cavite, Ricardo Laron, head of the Association of Barangay Captains, was shot dead, while his companion, Councillor Baltazar Boria of Barangay Teniente Tiago, General Mariano Alvarez, was seriously injured.

In Quezon Province, authorities found the corpse of Romulo Idorio, a candidate for the Nationalist People's Coalition, and in Jolo, three of Governor Habib Dubay Luong of Sulu's armed bodyguards were killed when they tried to enter two polling stations at Sulu State College and exchanged fire with members of the Philippine Marines. The marines stopped them from entering precincts 26 and 45, but the bodyguards resisted and began shooting. They were then shot dead by the Marines.

Violence in Kalinga, Iloilo Noted

HK1105122692 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1050 GMT 11 May 92

[By Andy Macaranas of the Commission on Elections; italicized passages in English]

[Excerpts] Here is an announcement by the Comelec [Commission on Elections] Chairman Christian Monsod: *Voting was generally peaceful and orderly in the first synchronized elections. Vote counting is going on smoothly nationwide. Over 87,000 candidates ran for 17,000 posts in this election.* This is the first *political exercise since the disputed 1986 snap elections sparked by a political uprising which overthrew former President Marcos and restored democracy in this part of the world. The Comelec has mobilized more than 8,000 civilians, police and troops to keep the election as honest as possible.*

As the vote counting takes place, Monsod said that the official canvassing of votes based on the election returns nationwide will be held at the Army Navy Club in Manila. [passage omitted]

Other reports reaching the Comelec states that *a group of heavily armed men, believed to be members of the NPA [New People's Army] snatched three ballot boxes in barangay Nacpil, Conner, 50 kms west of Tabuk, Kalinga-Apayao this morning. Major Eduardo Periquino, Kalinga-Apayao Philippine National Police provincial director, said the heavily armed rebels entered the polling places in the public school before 0700 this morning, held the members of the Board of Elections inspectors and other residents at bay, then carted away the ballot boxes including other election paraphernalia.*

In Dimaras Island in Iloilo, three were killed while two others were wounded *following a clash between armed supporters of two candidates on Sunday [10 May] afternoon.* [passage omitted] *In San Jose City, suspected communist guerrillas torched Baliwag air conditioned buses at 1220 this morning.*

Kidnapping, Ballot Snatching Viewed

HK1105111592 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1028 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] The Philippine National Police [PNP] reported that armed men have snatched ballot boxes in the Bicol region. Superintendent Wilfredo Rectotar, PNP director for operation, said that the armed men snatched two ballot boxes and kidnapped four barangay captains in Polangui, Albay. The incident occurred at 1300 today.

Rectotar added that armed men also snatched about 20 ballot boxes in Irosin, Sorsogon two hours before the precincts were opened this morning. The report said that about 8,000 ballots were carted away by the armed men. This incident occurred at 0700 this morning.

Cardinal Sin on Church Involvement in Polls

HK1005031592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0307 GMT 10 May 92

[By Roberto Coloma]

[Text] Manila, May 10 (AFP)—Philippine Roman Catholic leader Jaime Cardinal Sin on Sunday defended church involvement in Monday's polls and urged followers to fight fraud and violence even at the risk of losing their lives.

The election-related death toll meanwhile rose to 51 overnight after two people wounded by the bombing of a rally in Mindanao died. Four others had been killed elsewhere in the southern island when a bomb went off in a bus before the three-month campaign ended at midnight Saturday.

Sin, speaking at a mass in Manila for Catholic poll watchers, said "some are saying that the church should not be involved" in the elections for a new president, congress and 17,000 local government positions.

"But my friends, you are the church," he said. "As citizens of this country we must be involved," he said.

"We all belong to the same boat and if we do not do anything, we will all sink together with the boat," he said, adding "gone are the days when the church is seen as an institution isolated from the world."

"Don't be afraid. Stay where you are, and if need be, even give your life," he told Volunteers of the Parish Pastoral Council for Pastoral Voting, a Catholic lay group that will monitor cheating and violence in the polls.

On the eve of the vote, the seven-candidate presidential contest remained too close to call, but four front-runners have clearly emerged: administration candidate Fidel Ramos, opposition tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco, House Speaker Ramon Mitra and anti-graft crusader Miriam Santiago.

Sin, publicly perceived to be backing Mitra, who like the cardinal fought deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos, was scheduled to meet Sunday with Ramos, a retired general endorsed by President Corazon Aquino to be her successor.

"I don't know what we are going to talk about," Sin told reporters after the mass, saying Ramos sought the meeting.

The prelate has attacked Ramos's stint as a martial-law enforcer for Marcos in the 1970s, but Aquino said Ramos had redeemed himself by leading a mutiny that ousted Marcos in 1986 and later quashing seven attempts to topple her.

Sin, who has issued statements critical of most of the seven candidates, insisted that he was not endorsing any particular candidate to avoid turning the church into a political party.

Asked whom he would vote for, he said, "I have not decided until now. I will decide tomorrow before going to the precinct."

Analysts said the presidential battle was shaping up into a Cojuangco-Ramos showdown.

Cojuangco, an estranged Aquino cousin who made a fortune from a close partnership with Marcos, has emerged as a front-runner after a well-funded campaign, although surveys give the edge to Ramos.

"I feel that Ramos is the only man capable of standing fast as an alternative to the likes of Danding (Cojuangco)," publisher Max Soliven wrote in the daily PHILIPPINE STAR. "It is either Ramos—or Danding."

Communist Rebels Plan Talks With New Government

HK0905030292 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 2200 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] The National Democratic Front [NDF] in Northern Mindanao has announced that it is prepared to hold peace talks with the incoming government. However, according George Magnos, a high-ranking leader of the NDF in Northern Mindanao, the group is also prepared to intensify their operations in the event that a militarist wins in the coming polls.

In a prior statement, the NDF said it is willing to abide by the people's will as reflected in the results of the 11 May elections. The organization has also warned politicians against the use of fraud and violence during the polls.

Thailand

Commerce Minister Criticizes U.S. Trade Action

BK1205062892 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 May 92 p B1

[Text] Commerce Minister Anuwat Watthanaphongsiri yesterday displayed disappointment over Washington's decision to maintain Thailand on a list of countries threatened with immediate trade retaliation, despite concrete efforts to improve the country's intellectual property protection regime.

In a separate development, two US officials urged Thailand to resume talks on the bilateral air service agreement before August due to growing demand for passenger service on the US-Thailand route.

Following a meeting with Arnold Kanter, US undersecretary of state for political affairs, Anuwat told reporters that the US decision retaining Thailand on the list of priority foreign countries (PFC) had ruined Thailand's image in the international trade community.

"We regret that the US continues to list Thailand on the list together with India despite our marked immprovement. This has very negative impact on the country's image," Anuwat said.

During the meeting, Kanter queried the Thai official over the amendment of the patent law. The US official continued to press Thailand for more concessions as far as the pharmaceutical patent is concerned. Washington wanted Thailand to protect drugs currently unavailable in the domestic market and to narrow the scope of authority the state can have to force patent holders to give up their rights.

At the same time, it also found the creation of a price review board for patented drugs unacceptable. The agency is created under the revised patent act which was passed by the National Legislative Assembly in February to counter the public fear that drug prices might surge if patent is granted.

Kanter reportedly told the Thai commerce minister that intellectual property protection has a very high priority on the American trade agenda and that Washington wanted the maximum protection to ensure that their rights would not be infringed upon. If so, the pirates should receive the maximum penalty.

The US official, however, expressed satisfaction over the enforcement of copyright law here, but said further consultation would be needed to crack down on piracy here.

The minister reiterated that Thailand has significantly improved its intellectual property protection regime. "We're displeased with the continued US pressure and demands," he added.

Both sides also discussed the prospect of investment in Indochinese countries, particularly in telecommunications. Anuwat said he suggested to the US to look into fishing ventures in Indochina, as well as ventures in mining and cement. The US has maintained an economic embargo against Vietnam since 1978 which prohibits American companies to do business with Vietnam.

Meanwhile, US officials John Medeiros and James Steele yesterday urged Thailand to resume talks on the bilateral air service agreement by August at the latest. They told counterpart, Sathian Wongwichian, the deputy permanent secretary of the ministry, that Thailand should also review its VAT [value added tax] policy to grant the zero-rate tax status to US carriers using ground handling services in Thailand. Although US carriers currently are exempted from VAT, they cannot claim tax credits under the new tax system.

The US officials said bilateral air service negotiations should be opened as soon as possible because there is a growing demand for passenger seats along the US-Thailand route. Demand is particularly strong at points in Korea and Japan, according to the sources.

On two earlier occasions, the US requested Thailand to resume talks but the Thai side said they were not ready due to inadequate data. Under the current interim agreement, US carriers are allowed to operate 38 flights (31 for passenger service and 7 for cargo service) per week to Thailand. On the other hand, Thai Airways International operates 7 flights to the US.

Over the next seven years, Thai [Airways] plans to double its services to three important destinations in Japan. The Bangkok-Nagoya service will rise from 3 to 6 flights a week; Bangkok-Osaka from 4 to 9 flights; and Bangkok-Tokyo from 7 to 14 flights.

The so-called fifth freedom by which carriers are allowed to pick up passengers or cargoes at stopover points is the most critical issue in Thai-US negotiations. The Thai side wants to limit the capacity and flight frequencies of carriers of both countries, but the US prefers a more liberal approach to this fifth freedom.

Minister on Policy Implementation, Copyright

BK3004145592 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Pongphon Adireksan had a meeting with leaders of the Armed Forces today. He reported to newsmen afterwards that they discussed the implementation of policy on neighboring countries. He said there should be no work coordination problems because the military already has liaison officers posted at the ministry. He said cooperation between his ministry and the military on policy implementation would continue as before. The minister added he wanted to introduce himself to military leaders because he is a new face at his office. The meeting was a good beginning for him because his ministry needs the cooperation of the Defense and Interior Ministries in carrying out foreign policies with regards to Thailand's neighbors.

Asked about a report by the Voice of America that Thailand and Taiwan received a very poor rating on copyright protection and have been given six months to improve, the foreign minister said he would have to discuss this with concerned authorities first. He said it is good that Thailand has been given up to six months by the United States to redress the problem. He said copyright protection is the direct right and interest of Thailand, the same as the GSP privileges. The foreign minister said he will discuss this matter in detail with the concerned authorities.

Minister Wants U.S. Compromise

BK0505104692 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 5 May 92 p 3

[Text] Commerce Minister Anuwat Watthanaphongsiri said he still had no plan within sight concerning possible U.S. trade retaliation under Section 301 following its announcement that Thailand is a priority first country under a close watch for failure to provide patent protection to pharmaceutical products. He said negotiations on the issue will be pursued on a continuous basis. He would appoint an official body to be in charge of conducting trade negotiations on copyright protection, and the issue should have nothing to do with GATT in order not to disrupt the GATT talks.

Minister Anuwat believed the long-standing friendly relations between Thailand and the United States would allow both countries to pursue trade talks with reason and not with emotion. He said Thailand might request from the United States from four to five years to solve the problem of copyright protection, and there should be no problem if the two countries could agree on holding constructive discussions.

Dispatch of Japanese Troops 'No Worry' to Premier

OW070504229 Tokyo KYODO in English 0342 GMT 07 May 92

[Text] Bangkok, May 7 KYODO—Thailand's Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun told a Japanese opposition leader Thursday that he has no worry about the proposed dispatch of Japanese troops abroad to join United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Suchinda made the comment during a meeting with Koshiro Ishida, chairman of Japan's No. 2 opposition party Komeito, party officials said.

In Japan, the House of Councillors is currently debating a government-proposed bill aimed at sending Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel to participate in U.N. peacekeeping activities.

Bangkok Command Supports End of Rally

BK0805172392 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1700 GMT 8 May 92

[Announcement by television announcer Colonel Praphat Sakuntanak on 8 May—live or recorded]

[Text] Please let the public be informed that at 2315 today, Mr. Khothom Ariya took to the platform of the rally announcing that henceforth, the Student Federation of Thailand, the Campaign for Popular Democracy Committee, and the Private Development Organization will abandon acting as leaders of the rally and hand back the stage to be under the sole management of the Palang Dharma Party.

The Bangkok Peacekeeping Command would like to express its support and appreciation for this reasonable decision. It asks for cooperation from the people for the sake of peace in the country. Thank you.

King Asks for No Use of Force

BK0905023592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 May 92 p 1

[Text] His Majesty the King yesterday urged the Government to refrain from using violence to suppress demonstrators at Sanam Luang.

The royal request was made to Gen Suchinda Khraprayun and commanders of the three armed forces who were summoned for an audience yesterday afternoon.

Well-informed military sources said that during the meeting the King urged the Government and the military to exercise the utmost patience with the protesters and to avoid using violence to subdue them.

Ministry Refuses To Arrest Striker

BK0905025592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 May 92 p 1

[Text] The Ministry of Interior has turned down a Special Branch Police request to arrest hunger striker Chalat Worachat on charges of inciting unrest, an authoritative source told the BANGKOK POST yesterday.

The source said the Special Branch Division cited Article 116 of the Criminal Code in proposing the arrest of the former Trat MP.

The request was yesterday submitted to Suchat Thammamongkhon, inspector-general of the Interior Ministry, who was on duty on behalf of Permanent Secretary Anan Anantakun.

The source said Mr Suchat immediately sought consultation with Mr Anan who, after lengthy consideration, refused the request on the grounds that Chalat's arrest might spark discontent among the protesters and aggravate the situation.

Responding to a reporter's question about the possibility of his arrest, Mr Chalat said he would be happy to be arrested "so that I can continue the protest in jail."

He said he would fully cooperate with police and would not resist arrest, adding that he would not seek bail either because he had no money.

The former MP, however, maintained that he did not incite unrest as alleged by police. On the contrary, he said, he tried to pacify the protesters.

Riding a pickup Thursday, Mr Chalat allegedly shouted out to the protesters that the country was threatened by a coup and that the protesters were cornered because there was no place to hide.

Rumors of Martial Law Denied

BK1005094892 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0915 GMT 10 May 92

["Statement No. 2" of the Prime Minister's Office—recorded; read by announcer]

[Text] Regarding the political rally being held by a number of people at Ratchadamnoen Avenue since 9 May and which has caused traffic congestion throughout Bangkok: As of noon on 10 May, there has been no sign of relenting. There is concern that the rally will obstruct the route to be used by the motorcade of Her Royal Highness Princess Sirinthon, who will perform the religious rites marking Wisakhabucha week at Sanam Luang grounds.

Rumors, totally groundless, have been fabricated by some members of political parties that are not in the coalition government and spread in the provincial areas—to the effect that, for example, martial law has been declared and state power seized—to instigate fighting and unrest. Other rumors even claimed that his majesty the king has instructed the government to dissolve the House of Representatives. These rumors are totally groundless. Such an act of fabrication has created annoyance to his majesty the king and is tantamount to blatantly exploiting the country's highest institution for political gain.

The Prime Minister's Office hereby denies these rumors and fabrications and will keep the general public informed of any movement on part of the government as deemed necessary.

The Prime Minister's Office.

10 May 1992

Minister Wants Protesters To Move

BK1005051892 Bangkok Army Television Channel 7 in Thai 0455 GMT 10 May 92

[Text] Interior Minister Air Chief Marshal Anan Kalintha observed the peacekeeping command of the police department at Phan Fa Bridge at 1000 today [0300 GMT]. He talked to a group of demonstrators across a space separated by barbed wire. Ratchadamnoen Avenue is still closed to traffic due to the rally. Shortly after that, Navy Commander Admiral Wichet Karunyawanit held a meeting with Navy officers sent to support police in maintaining peace.

Interior Minister Air Chief Marshal Anan Kalintha told reporters while inspecting the policemen that he wants the demonstrators to move away from Ratchadamnoen Avenue and hold the rally at another place temporarily in order to clear the way for passage of Princess Sirinthon at about 1700 today. The demonstrators can hold their rally at the area again after Princess Sirinthon's return. He said this should be acceptable to both sides.

However, the interior minister said that if the demonstrators refuse to comply with the request, it will be necessary to disperse the rally. But, he reiterated that lenient measures will be used.

Government Appeals to Demonstrators

BK1005065492 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 0600 GMT 10 May 92

[Text] Up to this moment, the protest rally at Ratchadamnoen Klang Avenue has not yet been dissolved, and there is no sign of it ending. The government has appealed to demonstrators to end their rally for they are causing traffic jams and will obstruct the route to be used by the motorcade of Princess Sirinthon.

According to a report from another correspondent, speeches continued to be delivered at the rally from yesterday until 0400 today. The leading core of the opposition held consultations but refused to disperse the rally. They demanded that senior personalities of the government such as the prime minister or Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin reaffirm the planned amendment of the Constitution as proposed by the political parties.

At 0630 thousands of people were still rallying at the site. Major General Chamlong Simuang in a van driven around the site addressed the rally to give moral support to demonstrators.

Since the eight political parties have agreed before the house speaker that they will amend the Constitution this week as demanded by the demonstrators, many people suggested that the rally should be dispersed to maintain peace and order in the country.

Senior officials such as the Army commander and interior minister visited military and police personnel at Makkhawan and Phan Fa Bridges.

Army Commander General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi has said he believes the situation will soon improve. The military and police personnel will avoid any harsh measures against demonstrators.

First Army Region Lieutenant General Chainarong Nunphakdi has said the rally will obstruct the route to be used by the motorcade of Princess Sirinthon, who is scheduled to open the Buddhist Religion Promotion Week Fair at the Sanam Luang grounds. The demonstrators say they will sit by the roadside in peace to pay their respects to the princess.

Agreement to One Week 'Cease-Fire'

BK1105023192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 11 May 92 p 1

[Text] The Opposition has unanimously agreed to a "ceasefire" for a week but vowed to return next Sunday [17 May] for another round of demonstrations to press for the honoring of a compromise agreement reached over the weekend on constitutional changes.

The unilateral "ceasefire" followed the softening of demands by former Phalang Tham Party [PDP] leader Chamlong Simuang for a written commitment from the Government for consitutional amendments.

Despite a compromise reached on Saturday by the five government and four opposition parties on charter changes, Chamlong's demand for a firmer commitment from the Government, especially a personal pledge from Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun to ensure that the agreement will be honoured, yesterday held back dispersal of the crowd.

Optimism of an early end to the week long anti-Suchinda protest which prevailed after the meeting of government and opposition parties on Saturday afternoon evaporated that night because of the tough stand Chamlong and his supporters adopted.

This led to the resumption of more vehement attacks against Chamlong by state-run radio and television yesterday.

Informed sources close to the protest leaders said last night, after the protest ends, pro-democracy organisations plan to hold exhibitions and organise activities throughout the country to keep alive the movement until next Sunday when the protesters are asked to return for more demonstrations.

A motion of constitutional amendments is due to be submitted to Parliament on Friday.

A meeting was held shortly before midnight last night by Chamlong and leaders of the opposition parties, the Campaign for Popular Democracy [CPD] and the Student Federation of Thailand [SFT] to discuss a "graceful" end to the protest.

Earlier, lengthy meetings were held by Chamlong, the SFT and CPD on whether the compromise was acceptable and whether the crowd should be dispersed, but they were inconclusive.

The Democrat and Solidarity parties appeared to have distanced themselves from Chamlong, who had adopted a tough stand requiring a firm commitment from Gen Suchinda for the charter changes as a precondition for dispersing the protesters. They were asked to join the talks last night.

Also, informed sources said there were disagreements among moderates and hardliners in the PDP.

Despite increased roadblocks and inconveniences, protesters still poured into Ratchadamnoen Avenue last night, bringing the crowd to 100,000.

Special Branch Police, which normally underestimate crowd figures, reported 80,000-90,000 in the protest last night.

Ratchadamnoen Avenue, the scene of the protest since last Friday, was cleared yesterday afternoon. The protesters voluntarily left the avenue for the pavements to make way for the motorcade of HRH Princes Maha Chaki Sirinthon.

Within a short period, the road was cleared of newspaper and garbage by the demonstrators.

However, the royal motorcade did not pass, having been re-routed.

Thammasat University lecturer Thirayuth Bunmi, who was invited to advise the pro-democracy movement, said last night there a split in the protest leadership over the compromise reached on Saturday at Parliament.

He said one faction, including the Campaign for Popular Democracy, wanted an end to the protest because it felt that the groups had won enough from the Government.

The other side, said Thirayuth, was not convinced that the compromised would be honored by the Government and wanted a written commitment, particularly on a deadline for completion of the amendments.

The former student leader said he proposed that the protest should end.

The pro-democracy organisations will then follow the performance of the coalition parties to see whether they honour their word.

If they do not, the protesters could return next weekend for another protest, he said.

"In a Thai-style compromising way, the protesters have won enough concession," said Thirayuth.

But he added: "The protesters may win more concessions if they press on because the crowd is still large."

Reportage on Pending Amendment of Constitution

Five Points To Be Amended

BK0805113892 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 3 in Thai 1029 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] Five political parties held a meeting and unanimously agreed to amend five major points of the Constitutions.

This afternoon at Government House, Montri Phongphanit, deputy prime minister and leader of the Social Action Party, announced the results of the meeting of leaders of the five political parties in the coalition government. The parties discussed ways to maintain peace and order.

The parties have unanimously decided to amend the Constitution on five major points. They are as follows:

1. The president of the House of Representatives must also be president of the National Assembly.

2. The authority of senators, who hold a four-year term under the provisional clause of the present Constitution, will be reduced.

3. Members of parliament will be allowed to submit motions in the second ordinary parliamentary session.

4. The general election is to be held under the single-ballot constituency system.

5. The prime minister must be appointed from elected members of parliament.

The coalition parties will hold consultations with the opposition parties on Monday 11 May to discuss the fourth and fifth points.

All Party Leaders Invited to Meeting

BK0805142292 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] The house speaker has invited leaders of all political parties for a meeting to discuss ways to resolve the political problem as soon as possible. Somsak Phumngoen, secretary general to the house speaker, said that the current political situation evoked the concern of the political institutions, especially the National Assembly or the House of Representatives, which are major institutions of the country. The house speaker, in his capacity as the leader of this institution, has tried to find appropriate ways to resolve the problem by taking into account the interests and peace of the majority of the country. So, he has invited leaders and secretary generals of all political parties for a special meeting at 1000 on Monday at the National Assembly building to discuss ways to resolve the current political crisis.

House Speaker Calls Urgent Meeting

BK0905091192 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 9 May 92

[Text] Following the end of fasting and start of eating by Major General Chamlong Simuang, leader of the Palang Dharma Party, this morning various sectors have expressed their delight over the development. At the same time, the president of the House of Representatives has called a meeting of the leaders of all political parties this afternoon to jointly resolve the current problem.

Athit Urairat, president of the House of Representatives, told reporters shortly before noon today that all sides turning to face one another to find the best way out is the correct move, particularly on amending the necessary points in the Constitution.

[Begin recording] [Athit] If the end of fasting shows an effort at understanding by the various sides to improve the situation and to compromise more with each other in the interest of the country, I commend this development. I think this is the correct way in turning to face each other to jointly find a way out. I believe there is a way out since all political parties have seriously been consulting with each other to amend all the necessary points in the Constitution. Therefore, if the effort to amend the Constitution is a good sign, there is no need to continue the hunger strike. It is better to think together and act together constructively for the public.

[Unidentified reporter] Would there be any way to shorten steps in calling party leaders to a meeting?

[Athit] Contacts are being made to have, if possible, a meeting today at 1400—to proceed faster then the orginal schedule. The orginal schedule does not mean that we are not working. We are working on it, but now I want to proceed faster than before. The meeting would be held today if possible.

[Reporter] Regarding the people's concerns, in your capacity as president of the House of Representatives, do you think there will be any way to speed up the process or improve the situation in amending the Constitution?

[Athit] I think amending the Constitution is the most appropriate way. It could be done in steps as quickly as possible, one way or another. Under the democratic system, there is room for discussion and deciding together. It could be done either in the shortest period or under relaxed conditions of compromise on all sides. Therefore, whether it would be completed in one month, two months, three months or even six months, I cannot tell now. It would depend in all sides holding discussions with each other. But I am happy and pleased to tell everyone that the lines of thinking of all the parties are in the same direction. They concur that we can help rescue the situation in the country without the use of violence or methods that would cause public calamity or chaos.

[Reporter] Do you have anything to say to the people?

[Athit] I beg the people to have confidence. The democratic process may sometimes not be as fast as one wishes. But I would say the present move is the most compromising and civilized method. Therefore, please support them. We, all the members of the House of Representatives and all the political parties, are working nonstop. Throughout last night, although we did not gather anywhere, we coordinated with each other to find a way out. Therefore, please feel confident and relaxed. I believe that everything will be settled soon. The government has expressed its genuine and serious intention. I hope the people will understand. I hope that the opposition parties, students, and Palang Dharma Party members, who are staging a rally, will turn to face one another and cooperate with one another instead of turning their backs to one another. [end recording]

Peacekeeping Command Urges Compromise

BK0905052892 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0345 GMT 9 May 92

["Statement" No. 1 of the Bangkok Peacekeeping Command on the political rally—live]

[Text] Whereas the opposition political parties organized a political rally which, in its initial stage, continued in a peaceful atmosphere and, as generally seen by all fraternal people, was not obstructed by government officials because it was held on the basis of the principles of rights and freedom as stipulated in the Constitution, it is nevertheless apparent in the later stages that certain politicians, particularly leaders of the Palang Dharma and the New Aspiration Party, have, in an adverse manner, tried to instigate the people to resort to violent means to raise the level of the struggle with a view to achieving their political purpose.

This reached the extent that on the night of 8 May through the morning of 9 May 1992, leaders of the two parties resorted to risky means that could lead to violence. They moved the people, who had been rallying in peace, back to an area adjacent to the Royal Palace. When they were obstructed by the police, they even resisted and resorted to using various provocative acts with the intention of bringing about violence.

The Bangkok Peacekeeping Command would hereby like to inform the public that all the acts of the leaders of the two political parties will certainly cause immeasurable losses to the country in the political and economic fields as well as to the image foreign countries hold of Thailand, an issue which is presently considered to be very important. This is therefore considered a very sad story.

The fraternal people, though maintaining different political views, are therefore requested to carefully consider the various problems that have arisen and then join in finding a way out of the problems by adhering to the principles of compromise and peacefulness, principles which throughout Thai history have helped Thai society overcome minor or major crises.

[Signed] Bangkok Peacekeeping Command

[Dated] 9 May 1992

Parliament President on Procedures

BK1105145392 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] At 1030 today at the National Assembly Building, opposition party leaders, including New Aspiration Party leader General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Democrat Party leader Chuan Likphai, Solidarity Party leader Bunchu Rotchanasathian, Puangchon Chao Thai Party leader Colonel Phon Roengprasoetwit, and representatives from the Phalang Tham Party and Muan Chon Party called on Parliament President Ukrit Mongkhonnawin to ask him to put the four-point Constitution amendment motion submitted by the opposition in April on the agenda as soon as possible. The parliament president said after receiving the opposition's letter that he would try to handle this issue as soon as possible. He will have to wait, however, for the motion to be submitted by the five government parties until 15 May:

[Begin Ukrit recording] The four points proposed as amendments are as follows:

1. Make the House speaker the president of the parliament;

2. Motions and interpellations can be submitted during the second parliamentary session;

3. The power of the Senate must be limited only to screening legislation;

4. The prime minister must be an elected member of parliament.

Since other political parties have indicated that they also want to submit a motion to seek amendments to the Constitution, I will set a deadline of Friday, 15 May, for them to submit the motion. I will ask the Secretariat of the National Assembly to send letters inviting the members to attend a joint session of the Parliament on 18 May to discuss the amendments to the Constitution. I, in my capacity as the president of the parliament, will act as a moderator for a smooth session, but the results will depend on the votes of MP's and senators. [end recording]

Agreement Not Finalized

BK1205001792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 May 92 pp 1, 3

[Text] The five political parties in the coalition Government have made clear that a promise made by their leaders on Saturday to amend the Constitution on four points, including an elected MP being premier, has yet to be finalised.

Obstacles may lie ahead with each of the five coalition partners to separately consider what should be amended.

Niphon Wisityuthasat, spokesman for the coalition's coordinating committee, said after its meeting yesterday:

"The coordinating committee of the five parties today agreed to take the agreement reached by their leaders (and four opposition leaders) for consideration.

"Each party will meet on Wednesday to decide what should be included in the proposed amendments. A resolution by each party will be considered on Monday for a final resolution."

The Chat Thai Party MP for Ang Thong said the five parties—Samakkhi Tham [STP], Chat Thai, Social Action [SAP], Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon—have yet to consider the proposed amendments, he said.

The leaders of nine Government and Opposition parties met on Saturday and reached what was believed to be a compromise on constitutional amendments.

The nine parties stated they had agreed on four amendments:

- —The prime minister to be appointed from among elected MPs;
- —The House Speaker to serve as President of Parliament;
- —The Senate's power to be curtailed and limited to only screening legislative drafts.
- —The second ordinary parliamentary session of the year will be open to deliberation of various motions and interpellations, and not only for legislative drafts.

Earlier on Friday, SAP leader Montri Phongphanit also said the five Government parties had agreed to amend the Constitution on five points—the additional point being an electoral system with small constituencies and votes for party slates.

But the government parties spoke differently yesterday.

Asked if the Chat Thai Party agrees to a proposal for the prime minister to come from elected MPs, Mr Niphon said: "We have not yet decided on the matter."

He said he did not think a collective resolution of the five parties would be ready by Friday.

Chat Thai Party leader ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong refused to comment when asked on the matter.

STP Secretary-General Thitti Nakhonthap denied a suggestion that the statement by the nine parties on Friday was designed to "buy the time" to ease tension.

But he said any constitutional amendment must be made in unison by MPs.

Non-elected Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan said as far as he knew only the four Opposition parties have submitted a draft for constitutional changes.

The Government parties have yet to make theirs, he said.

Whether or not the constitutional amendments will take time depends on Parliament, he said.

STP leader Narong Wongwan admitted a statement made by himself and four other leaders of the Government parties may be changed "because MPs are independent to voice their opinions."

SAP leader Mr Montri admitted that his statement on Friday was intended to show compromise.

"But we have to sound out the opinions of our MPs first.

"As for the SAP, we will consider five points. We still have to discuss the time frames for the prime minister to be an elected MP and the new electoral system to take effect," he said.

Mr Montri believes there should be a provisional clause stating when the requirement for the prime minister to be elected should take effect.

"The current Prime Minister was appointed constitutionally with support from parties commanding the majority. How can we tell him (the Prime Minister) to go immediately?" he said.

The Deputy Prime Minister said compromise on the time for implementation is needed.

Asked if this would cause the anti-Suchinda demonstration to drag on, Mr Montri said: "Why should we hate him? What has he (Gen Suchinda Khraprayun) done wrong? His ascension to the position is rightful and justified."

Mr Montri said he does not believe the demonstrators under the Phalang Tham Party's Maj-Gen Chamlong Simuang represent the majority of people.

Prime Minister's Office Minister Piyanat Watcharaphon, who is an SAP MP for Sisaket, said that in amending the Constitution public opinion will be considered.

However, MPs must be free to decide on legislative matters to maintain the sanctity of the legislative branch.

Mr Piyanat said he cannot guarantee the attempt to have the prime minister from elected MPs will be successful.

"As an MP, I am duty-bound to listen to public opinion. But, as a member of a party in the Government, I have to also uphold political discipline," he said.

Mr Piyanat said he does not agree with various groups submitting petitions to His Majesty the King.

He said a provisional clause in the Constitution is needed if it is changed to require an elected prime minister.

"We have to give him (Gen Suchinda) honour. He accepted the position because we invited him to. It would be a dishonour for him to be told to go immediately.

"So we need a provisional clause for his graceful stay or exit," the minister said.

On the anti-Suchinda demonstrators, Mr Piyanat said:

"I must admit that quite a large number of people came out but those who did not come out constitute a larger number of people. We must also listen to them."

Meanwhile, Students' Federation of Thailand Secratary-General Prinya Thewanarumitkun said the statement made by the coalition's coordinating committee spokesman indicated that the Government parties may swallow their words given to the people.

It was apparent their previous statements were intended to disperse the pro-democracy demonstrators without sincerity.

Charter Compromise in Doubt

BK1205052892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0441 GMT 12 May 92

[By Charles Antoine de Nerciat]

[Text] Bangkok, May 12 (AFP)—An agreement between pro-government and opposition parties for Thai Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun to step down has been thrown into doubt following differences over the timing of his withdrawal.

The agreement was hurriedly reached at the weekend as tens of thousands demonstrated here to force the resignation of Suchinda, a former armed forces chief who became prime minister despite not being an elected member of parliament and who is accused by opponents of being a military dictator.

The week-long protests, the biggest in Thailand since student uprisings in the 70s, were called off Sunday after agreement was reached for the Constitution to be rewritten to stipulate the country's premier must have been elected to the House of Representatives.

But demonstration organisers said they would resume next Sunday if the revision of the Constitution was threatened.

Analysts said Tuesday remarks by leading politicians in the five-party pro-government coalition suggested they were not in complete agreement with the proposed constitutional changes and differences have emerged between the opposition and the government over their timing.

Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan, a legal expert, has said a temporary clause would be needed in the consitutional amendment stipulating the prime minister must be an elected MP and indicating what is to be done during an interim period before a new premier is chosen to replace Suchinda.

Chamlong Simuang, the former Bangkok governor and a key opposition leader, has specifically ruled out such a clause on an interim period. The opposition fears it would allow 58-year-old Suchinda, the architect of a military coup early last year, to stay on for a long period of time.

Narong Wongwan, the leader of the pro-military Samakkhi Tham, the party with most seats in parliament, has expressed support for a clause covering an interim period.

Political sources said Banhan Sinlapa-acha, a highly influential member of Chat Thai, the second largest party in the house, was altogether opposed to amending the Constitution.

The weekend agreement on constitutional revision includes other amendments, in particular curbing powers of the Senate.

Thailand's parliament is made up of the 360-seat House of Representatives where the government coalition holds a slim majority and the Senate, whose 270 members have been appointed by the military under a system adopted in the wake of last year's coup.

The prime minister reiterated Monday he would not yield to anti-government protesters, but, he added, "if the majority in parliament says the prime minister must resign, I will do so immediately."

Suchinda, who stepped down as armed forces chief when he became prime minister early last month, did not stand in the late March general election for the House of Representatives.

Asked by reporters Monday whether he would stand in an election after his withdrawal from the premiership, he said: "No, I will not. I have told you that I do not play politics ... I can do other jobs."

Suchinda-Chamlong 'Confrontation'

BK1205004092 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 May 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Take What is Possible; a Showdown Can Wait"]

[Text] It just sounds too good to be true. All the political parties will join forces to amend the undemocratic Constitution so that, among other things, a prime minister must be chosen by and only from among the elected members of the House of Representatives. If they agree to make this as well as other amendments effective immediately, Premier Gen Suchinda Khraprayun will have to resign because he is not an MP. And Suchinda yesterday reiterated his willingness to comply if a majority in Parliament wishes to see him leave office this way.

However, the prospect of a smooth constitutional amendment process with satisfactory results is not good. In fact, so many things could go wrong that the ominous possibility of another clash between Suchinda and his opponents still seems likely.

Assuming that Suchinda is sincere, and further assuming that his military backers will not intervene—two very big assumptions—it is still uncertain whether all the five government parties will cooperate with the Opposition in amending the Constitution and in effect driving Suchinda out of office. Suchinda's resignation would entail the dissolution of his Cabinet and probably the formation of a new government coalition. Few ministers from the government coalition want to face another round of horse-trading over Cabinet posts this soon.

The government parties may support the amendment to bar non-MPs from the premiership, but will most likely want to make this crucial change effective only after the next election or after Suchinda's voluntary resignation, whichever comes first. This may be acceptable to three opposition parties: New Aspiration, Democrat and Solidarity, but it is completely unacceptable to the Phalang Tham Party of Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang, who insists that the amendment must make Suchinda resign immediately.

To pass a constitutional amendment in this Parliament, 316 votes are needed in a joint meeting between the 360 MPs and 270 unelected senators. Few of the senators can be expected to vote for the amendment in question if it would disqualify Suchinda from the premiership immediately. Thus the burden of pushing the amendment through Parliament rests chiefly on the 360 MPs.

The four opposition parties have only 163 MPs; the five government parties have 195. Two other MPs, from Puangchon Chao Thai and Muanchon, will take the winning side.

In order to force Suchinda out of office through a constitutional amendment, Chamlong needs not only to keep his alliance with New Aspiration, Democrat and Solidarity in one solid bloc, but also to persuade at least the two largest parties, Samakkhi Tham (79 Mps) and Chat Thai (74 MPs) to abandon Suchinda. Doing the former is difficult; achieving the latter will be next to impossible. Samakkhi Tham and Chat Thai are extremely susceptible to manipulation by certain military leaders who are still firmly behind Suchinda's premiership.

Deputy Premier Montri Phongphanit, leader of the Social Action Party (31 MPs), is clearly against forcing Suchinda out this way. So is Deputy Premier Samak Suntharawet of Prachakon Thai (7 MPs) who has been dubbed in the press as Suchinda's "self-appointed lawyer." Ratsadon (4 MPs) will go along with what the majority in the government coalition wants.

The five government parties promise to make their joint position known by this Friday. Parliament will meet next Monday to start discussing constitutional amendments submitted by the four opposition [parties] since April 23. A vote on the first reading of these amendments will be held on May 22.

However, Chamlong has already called for a rally at Sanam Luang on Sunday. The question now is what he will do if the government coalition's position is unsatisfactory to him. Chances are that he will move to put pressure on the government parties and Suchinda instead of waiting until the vote on the first reading.

Suchinda's claim yesterday that all the five government parties and military leaders are still supporting him, coupled with the relentless TV propaganda to make Chamlong look bad, indicate that Suchinda doesn't believe he will have to step down from power anytime soon.

In this perspective, the end of the anti-Suchinda rally yesterday morning was only a respite for Chamlong and his supporter before renewed confrontation next week. This time Chamlong will almost certainly play up the "unreliability" and "cowardice" of the five government parties to convince people that it is futile to try to work through the governing coalition and is almost unstoppable with the pro-military Senate behind him as well.

Before long Chamlong will be tempted to resign from the House to carry on his struggle against Suchinda outside Parliament. He cannot win if he is left to carry on the campaign alone. The three other opposition parties and all other pro-demoacarcy pressure groups, especially the Students Federation of Thailand and the Movement for Popular Democracy, have a moral obligation to try to retain and engage Chamlong in the parliamentary process as long as possible.

Even if they fail to get what they want this time—which is most likely—they can still mount another campaign later this year by submitting a motion of no-confidence against Suchinda and his Cabinet. By that time Suchinda may be too tired to enjoy his premiership. Support for him from the five government parties and the military may diminish. Suchinda will be more vulnerable than he is today.

Chamlong should rest and review his strategy carefully. Take what can be taken now: amend the Constitution so that Suchinda would be the last military leader who could take advantage of its loopholes. This is not the time to settle old scores between him and Suchinda, which date back to the time they were cadets at the Chunlachomklao Royal Military Academy. The struggle being waged to end military intervention in Thai national politics is vastly more important than any personal feuds.

Military Denies King Wants Parliament Dissolved

BK1005065892 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0520 GMT 10 May 92

[Text] In connection with a remark made by Mrs. Khruawan Sommathana, a member of parliament from the Palang Dharma Party, that His Majesty the King has instructed that the parliament be dissolved, the Bangkok Peacekeeping Command would like to reaffirm that this remark is groundless.

Suchinda on Religious Belief to Well-Wishers

BK0805080492 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] At 1130 this morning at the Government House, a total of about 20 representatives of the Buddhist Associates for Security, the Buddhism Promotion Center, and a Buddhist lecturers group, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun as a morale-boosting gesture. On the occasion, the prime minister spoke to them as follows:

[Begin recording] The Constitution states clearly that everyone has freedom in religion, but [word indistinct] we do not want to see distortion of the real principles of Buddhism. Secondly, what I am very much concerned about is the use of religion as a political tool. This is because, as we all may know well, strong belief in religion may develop to fanaticism in a way that a person will do anything he is told to. There has been an example for this in history—a religious war that lasted some hundred years. Conflict in religious beliefs led to political confrontation. This is very dangerous. Using religion as a political tool is very dangerous. Once a person wants to specifically concentrate in religion, he must only engage in religion. He must not use religion as a political tool or a political force. I do not think it is right to do so.

I would like to thank you Buddhists. In fact, Buddhism makes a person calm and cool. I have always firmly believed in the Buddhist principle that good deeds bring good results, vicious deeds bring vicious results. These are the principles that I have always kept in mind. I, therefore, have self-confidence that if I do good deeds, I would conquer all vicious things. I, therefore, thank all of you once again. [end recording]

Former Security Officer Comments on Narong Case

BK1105152792 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 5 May 92 p 14

[Text] Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, former secretary general of the National Security Council, commented on the Foreign Ministry's request to the United States to check about the flow of information which led to the United States denying an entry visa to Deputy Prime Minister Narong Wongwan on suspicion of involvement in narcotics trafficking. Prasong said disclosure of information to that effect would require approval from the U.S. Government because it involves official secrets.

Prasong Sunsiri said when he was secretary general of the National Security Council, he was a member of the five-man special board which had General Prem Tinsulanon as its chairman and Gen. Prachuap Suntharangkun as a member. From that time, he said he knew many secrets about narcotics trafficking. "Enough to say that I am one of the persons who hold so many secrets that are really disgusting," he said.

The former secretary general of the National Security Council said that if the information were disclosed by the United States, many more people, including some permanent officials and present members of parliament, would be in trouble. He said he knows who the owners of the luxury hotel businesses at the Golden Triangle, in Chiang Mai, Hat Yai, and the northeast are. The businesses as well as the hotels are merely a cover for illegal activities of businessmen, government officials, and politicians who are involved in drug trafficking. He said that when Gen. Prem was prime minister and he was secretary general of the National Security Council, this kind of business was never allowed, and nobody would have dared have such a business.

Yet, Squadron Leader Prasong remarked that legal action can still be taken against these individuals since there are 12 years remaining under the 20-year statute of limitations.

Vietnam

Continuing Joint Search for MIA's Updated

BK1105114792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Vietnam and the United States are conducting the 17th joint search on information about Americans listed as missing in action. In this connection, the Voice of Vietnam has this to say:

The 17th joint search for remains of Americans who were listed as missing in the Vietnam war started on May 4th and will conclude on May 19th with excavations in Quang Binh, Thua Thien-Hue, and Quang Nam-Da Nang Provinces in central Vietnam and some other places in northern Vietnam.

This joint search is an initial stage of other three joint activities from now to January 1993 under a plan reached by Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai and Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of State Richard Solomon in March 1992. Initial results achieved in this phase are very promising. Realities show that so far Vietnam has always actively cooperated with the U.S. side with a view to solving the MIA issue as soon as possible. Vietnam considers it simply a humanitarian question. It cannot be linked with any political issue, especially in the normalization of the U.S.-Vietnamese relations.

In fact, Vietnam has unilaterally solved the MIA issue without imposing any conditions on the U.S. side and up to now, Vietnam has handed over to the U.S. side over 460 sets of remains and information on 60 cases confirming as already dead. Since August 19th, 1987 when the United States and Vietnam reached an agreement on the MIA issue, the two sides have conducted 16 joint searches and the 17th one is now under way.

A U.S. senator, Mr. John Kerry, who came to Vietnam last month, acknowledged Vietnam's great efforts and thanked Vietnam for what it had done in solving the MIA issue. Senator John Kerry also affirmed that there is no information or evidence to prove that Vietnam is still detaining some American prisoners.

For its part, THE WASHINGTON POST quoted Senator Hank Brown as saying that the results of Senator John Kerry's visit to Vietnam are a major breakthrough helping the U.S. side to have trust in Vietnam's goodwill.

Germany Urged To Protect SRV Workers' Rights

BK1005100192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] On 29 April in Berlin, a news conference was held to request for the right of Vietnamese and foreigners working in Germany under labor cooperation contracts to continue living in Germany. The contracts had been signed by their governments with the former GDR Government. The conference was coordinated by many German organizations and parties, including the Committee to Fight Discrimination Against Foreigners and the 90 SOS Alliance Against Apartheid.

At the conference, they said there were hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese workers who were being threatened with deportion on the expiration of their visas. They also said the policy of granting visas without extension to Vietnamese workers after Germany's unification is an arbitrary action and not in conformity with the unification agreement of the two German governments as well as the German law on foreigners. They called on the public and mass media to pressure the government so that it will change its attitude, and allow foreign workers contracted under agreements with the former GDR Government to receive the same rights as foreign workers in FRG in the 60's and 70's. Practically, this means the granting of extendable visas.

Recent Economic Relations With Germany Viewed

BK1105135592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 4 May 92

[Essay by Thanh Hang in "International Topic" program]

[Text] Recently, both government and business circles of the FRG have paid more attention to economic relations with Vietnam and want to develop SRV-FRG cooperation relations to a higher level.

In 1991, the goods exchange value between the two countries reached nearly DM [Deutsche marks] 300 million, an increase of 2.5 times from 1990. Also in the last year, a series of seminars on Vietnam's economic situation and on Vietnam-FRG economic relations was held in the FRG with the participation of many companies and business representatives. The most prominent ones were the seminars held in Cologne, Hamburg, and Bremen. Many delegations of Vietnamese companies attended trade fairs in Berlin and Cologne. At these fairs, sales contracts of nearly $10 million were signed between the two countries.

In 1991, the FRG Government also decided to resume its official economic aid to Vietnam after 10 years of interruption. The aid was started with DM29 million, including financial aid of DM12 million and DM17 million for science and technical aid.

By the end of 1991, the FRG Asian Economic Cooperation Committee set up a Vietnam sub-committee to make breakthroughs in the FRG-Vietnam cooperation relations and create favorable conditions for economic activities of the two countries' enterprises. On that basis, many FRG companies studied the potential of the Vietnamese economy and market. At first, the Berlin-based RNE Company held an exhibition of FRG industrial goods in Ho Chi Minh City. Many FRG banks, such as BHF Bank, Berlin Bank, and (Beitzer) Bank, have established business relations with Vietnam. Now the German Bank, the biggest bank of the FRG, plans to open representative offices in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City this year. Lufthansia Airlines has established the Berlin-Ho Chi Minh City link, while the Siemens electronics company is cooperating with Vietnam in setting up a modern telecommunications line between Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Commenting on the prospects and potential of Vietnam's economy and SRV-FRG cooperation relations, a major FRG newspaper writes: Vietnam has great economic potential to develop and it is an attractive production area with abundant national resources and a plentiful, skillful, disciplined labor force. Another newspaper in Frankfurt comments: FRG-SRV cooperation relations have inherited great advantages. FRG investors can use 100,000 workers and technicians who used to work in the GDR. These people can speak German and are accustomed to cooperative activities with Germany. Vietnam still has relations with many previous companies and economic units of the GDR which has now become a part of the FRG. These give great advantages to the new economic cooperation relations between the two countries.

Polish Ambassador Speaks on Joint Relations

BK0905155192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 3 May 92

[Speech by Stanislaw Gebala, Polish ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Vietnam, on 3 May to listeners of Vietnam radio station on Polish National Day—recorded and simultaneously translated into Vietnamese]

[Summary] "Dear friends, on 3 May, the Polish people celebrate their National Day, which is the 201st anniversary of the declaration of the 1791 Constitution, one of the first constitutions in Europe and the world. On this occasion, I would like to convey my best wishes to listeners of the Vietnam Radio station and wish the Vietnamese people many achievements in economic reform and in building a modern Vietnam. This is also a good opportunity for me to speak on our current bilateral relations and their prospective developments.

"Like Vietnam, Poland is implementing an active external policy to strengthen its friendship and cooperation relations with all countries, maintaining a peaceful and secure foundation in Europe and the world. With that conviction, we respect the preserving and broadening of relations with Vietnam and are striving to maintain anything precious, positive, and beneficial to our 40 years of bilateral traditional relations. We want the political relations between our two countries to continue to develop. We want to continue the economic, cultural, and scientific cooperation and to strengthen the mutual understanding and respectability. We are happy to realize we are receiving Vietnam's sympathy and support in these principles.

"Due to the two countries' efforts, we have solved all of our residual economic problems and we have signed agreements on trade payment and on debt adjustment. These agreements have created a firm foundation for the continuation of the development of our economic relations based on mutual benefit.

"We still do not forget results that we achieved in the previous years. Polish machinery is still working in Vietnamese industries of coal, machine production, and so forth. Poland can continue to provide the machinery as well as take part in the modernization of assembly production lines which have been working in the last 20, 30 years in Vietnam. The possibility of increasing import of Vietnamese popular commodities to Poland still exists. We hope that the recently established joint venture companies will be able to meet this demand.

"Another achievement in the past years is the formation of a large group of Vietnamese citizens graduated from Polish universities who can speak Polish, understand Polish conditions and industries, and have many friends there. Some married and established themselves in Poland. We expect from them a special dynamism in moving our two peoples closer, expanding the existing cooperation and exchange, and discovering new areas for cooperation.

"I would like to add that despite dertain difficulties the Polish economy is encountering at the moment, many Vietnamese students are still going for their studies in Poland. Last year, more than 90 Vietnamese science cadres went to Poland for their studies and scientific research. Many Polish scientists have visited Vietnam and wherever they go they have been given a warm reception by their former students who hold high positions in economic and scientific life in Vietnam.

"At present, we are preparing for agreements on cultural, and science and technology cooperation; on mutual jurisdiction assistance; and so forth. The agreements will create a legal framework for our relations in all fields."

After three years here, my duties as Polish ambassador in Vietnam are about to conclude. During the three years, I have visited many places in Vietnam, from the mountainous areas in the north to the farthest point in the south. Everywhere I go, I have always been given a warm and friendly reception.

"I would like to express my appreciation to Vietnamese leaders at all levels for creating favorable working conditions for our embassy. I thank leaders of the Vietnam-Poland Friendship Association and the Vietnam-Poland Friendship Club for their tireless activities to strengthen the friendship and cooperation between our two countries. I also thank leaders of the Vietnam Radio station for allowing me to speak today. Thank you."

European Parliament Head Receives Envoy to EC

BK0905150092 Hanoi VNA in English 0642 GMT 9 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 9—European Community highly regards its relation with Southeast Asian countries and will consider measures to step up its cooperative relations with Vietnam, said Mr. Egon Klepsch, president of the European Parliament, while receiving Ambassador Dinh Phu Dinh, head of the Vietnamese permanent mission at the European Community (EC), in Belgium recently.

Ambassador Dinh Phu Dinh conveyed chairman of the National Assembly Le Quang Dao's regards to the EP president and informed him of the initial results of the renovation process in Vietnam and of Vietnam's policy of diversifying and broadening its external relations. He expressed his hope that in the new situation, the Vietnamese-EC friendly and cooperative relations would make new progress.

President Egon Klepsh expressed his joy at the development of relations between Vietnam and other countries in the region and highly appreciated Vietnam's contributions to the peaceful settlement of the Cambodia issue.

Foreign Countries Offer Help on Electricification

BK1005080092 Hanoi VNA in English 0622 GMT 10 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 10—Efforts to broaden international cooperation for the development of electric energy, an important economic policy of the Vietnamese state, has brought encouraging though modest results.

Sweden, Japan, France, Ukraine, Russia and the United Nations have worked out long-term and short-term programmes of cooperation with Vietnam on electric energy development.

Following the grant of 80 million kronor as non-refund aid to restore the Thu Duc thermo-electric plant on Ho Chi Minh City outskirts to its designed capacity of 153 mw, Sweden has signed with Vietnam a specific agreement to support the energy sector in the period of 1991-1993. It also helps Vietnam improve the electric distribution network in Hanoi and Qui Nhon and establish a system of electric control information in south Vietnam. Besides, the two countries are preparing for a cooperation programme in electric development in 1993-1996.

Japan is helping Vietnam study the feasibility of some electric energy projects once ODA [Overseas Development Assistance] funds can be released. The Nippon Koei has helped draw up a feasibility study of the Yali hydropower electric plant to be built in Gia Lai-Kontum Province (central highlands).

The Electricity and Gas of France (EDF-GDF) has helped improve the electric system in Hue, part of that in Hanoi and design the electric system in the plain of reeds (South Vietnam).

Ukraine has supplied two generator units with a total capacity of 150 mw for the Thac Mo hydroelectric power plant, which is under construction in south Vietnam.

Russia and Vietnam are working out modalities for the supply of the two last turbines (the seventh and eighth) for Hoa Binh hydroelctric power plant.

UNDP [UN Development Program], after helping Vietnam build a training workshop in Thu Duc (Ho Chi Minh City) and a factory for the production of capacitors, is helping Vietnam restore gas-fuelled turbines and diesel-fueled turbines in north and central Vietnam with a total capacity of 40 mw and to draw up a project on general investment policy in energy.

Many foreign companies and firms have said they are ready to supply materials and equiment for the 500 kv trans-Vietnam transmission line which has started construction and is due to complete in early 1994.

Cuban Foreign Minister Holds Talks With Cam

BK0905144892 Hanoi VNA in English 1214 GMT 9 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 9—Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca left here yesterday morning for Hue beginning his visit to Thua Thien-Hue, Quang Nam-Danang and Ho Chi Minh City.

Foreign Minister Malmierca and his entougage arrived in Hanoi for a week-long visit. While here the Cuban delegation paid tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum.

The delegation was received by State Council President Vo Chi Cong and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet.

Minister Isidoro Malmierca held talks with Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam.

During the talks, the two sides informed each other of of the situation in each country, the achievements in national construction and defence and open advantages, difficulties and trials faced by each country in the new situation in the world.

The two sides compared notes on the relations between the two countries and on regional and international issues of common concern.

They were satisfied the traditional relations of solidarity, friendship and cooperation between the two countries, and reiterated their determination to further strengthen mutual support and assistance in the new period. They expressed their belief that the people of each country will overcome all temporary difficulties and trials, and continue to obtain greater achievements in their revolutionary cause, thus actively contributing to peace, security, friendship and cooperation in the region and the world as a whole.

Party Economic Delegation Visits Laos

BK1005145992 Hanoi VNA in English 1414 GMT 10 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 10—A delegation of the Economic Commission of the Communist Party of Vietnam led by Nguyen Ha Phan, secretary of the CPV CC [Central Committee] and head of the commission, paid a week-long visit to Laos beginning on May 7.

The delegation held talks with a delegation of the Economic Commission of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] headed by Khamsai Souphanouvong, member of the LPRP CC. The talks focussed on the party leadership toward the economy, the management of the marketing economy, the external ecomomic policy and possibilities of broadening economic cooperation between Laos and Vietnam.

In the afternoon of May 8, Oudom Khatthigna, Political Bureau member of the LPRP CC and secretary of the Vientiane Party Committee, received the Vietnamese delegation.

The Vietnamese delegation also called at some economic establishments in Vientiane.

Cambodian Vice Premier Chakkrapong Visits

BK1105155392 Hanoi VNA in English 1504 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 11—Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, vice premier of the State of Cambodia, and his wife arrived here this afternoon on an official visit to Vietnam as guest of the Vietnamese Government.

Vice Premier Chakkrapong and his entourage were welcomed at the government guest-house by Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Nguyen Khanh, Minister of Education and Training Tran Hong Quan, Vice Foreign Minister Vu Khoan and other Vietnamese senior officials.

Cambodian Ambassador Uch Borit was among the welcome party.

Speaking at the welcome ceremony, Vice Chairman Nguyen Khanh wished that Prince Chakkrapong's visit would be a success and the friendship between Vietnam and Cambodia would be further consolidated and developed.

For his part, Prince Chakkrapong expessed his wish that the relations between Vietnam and Cambodia would continue to be consolidated and developed.

Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, a son of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, was born on October 21,1945.

On November 14,1991 he returned to Phnom Penh together with his father.

In 1992 he became advisor to the chairman of the Cambodian Council of Ministers, and now he is vice chairman of the Council of Ministers in charge of agriculture, civil aviation, tourism, culture, social affairs and education.

Indonesian National Assembly Group Ends Visit

BK0905151992 Hanoi VNA in English 1410 GMT 9 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 9—The Indonesian National Assembly delegation led by Mohamad Kharis Suhud, chairman of the People's Consultative Assembly and speaker of the House of Representatives, left Ho Chi Minh City this moring, concluding a week-long official visit to Vietnam.

While in Ho Chi Minh City from May 7, the Indonesian delegation cordially talked with the chairman of the Municipal People's Council, Le Khac Binh. The Indonesian guests visited a number of economic and cultural institutions in the city and the Ba Ria-Vung Tau Province where they were warmly received by chairman of the provincial people's committee, Tran Van Chuong, and other local officials.

Do Muoi Visits Cement Plant, Historic Sites

BK0905140192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 3 May 92

[Report on party General Secretary Do Muoi's Visits to Hoang Thach cement plant and Con Son-Kiep Bac historic site in Hai Hung Province by station correspondent Tran Trong Chuy—portion recorded]

[Summary] "Dear friends: Amidst the enthusiastic atmosphere of Victory Day of 30 April and International Labor Day of 1 May, cadres and workers of the Hoang Thach cement plant elatedly welcomed Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi who paid a working visit to the plant. He was accompanied by Dao Duy Tung, Political Bureau member and secretary of the party Central Committee. Secretaries of Hai Hung and Quang Ninh Provinces, the building minister, and director general of the cement plant were also on hand."

The secretary general was shown around by the cement plant director general. The cement plant was built 10 years ago and turned out its first bag of cement on 1 May 1984. Since then, Comrade Do Muoi has regularly followed up on the production of the plant. After going around to observe and hear reports on the work in various shops, he commended the working class of the cement plant for all its achievements and said: [Begin Do Muoi recording] "Not only have you to develop good points but you have also to overcome shortcomings to advance the cement production sector. You all know that our country is struggling for peace and stability. We therefore must concentrate on building our country. We are implementing the seventh party congress resolution to secure conditions for peace and stability. Building the country requires cement. So we must strive to produce 5 million tonnes more of cement in the next few years. We must increase production on a larger scale. We might produce even 6 or 7 million tonnes. You, comrades, must urgently pay more attention to the production of cement. The Hoang Thach cement plant must expand cement production in the most economical manner. With loans and its own capital accumulation the plant must expand itself. Finally, in building the economy, we must be thrifty. Otherwise, we cannot perform as expected. I hope that you will prepare satisfactory conditions for starting the expansion in 1993, which I consider a very important political task." [end recording]

On behalf of cadres and workers of the cement plant, Building Minister Nghiem Xuan Loc promised to adequately implement all the instructions and suggestions of Comrade Do Muoi.

Leaving the cement plant, Comrade Do Muoi went on to visit the seven-century old Con Son and Kiep Bac historic sites that were closely connected to the lifetime of national hero Nguyen Trai and many others of the Tran, Le, and Nguyen dynasties. Comrade Do Muoi burned sticks of incense in memory of hero Nguyen Trai and expressed his admiration for the glorious traditions of ancestors. He then urged: "You, comrades, have the responsibility to preserve these valuable historic sites for the people countrywide to observe, understand, conserve, and carry on the glorious traditions of our ancestors. The more pride we take in national traditions, the more effort we must exert to build the country and implement Uncle Ho's teaching so that everybody can have a house, plenty of food and clothes, and adequate education. In this connection, Uncle Ho taught us to fight foreign agressors, poverty, and ignorance. We have fought foreign aggressors and only the enemies of poverty and ignorance are left. If we want to fight poverty, we must have knwowledge and must learn to raise the levels of our culture and technology and our people's standard of knowledge. Only by doing so, can we quickly make our country and people strong and prosperous."

Do Muoi Thanks Well-Wishers of Wife's Funeral

BK1105132292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 10 May 92

[Text] Comrade Do Muoi has expressed his thanks as follows: My family and I would like to convey our deep emotions and sincere thanks to all party organizations, state agencies, mass societies, Army units, party committee echelons, administrative bodies, relatives on both the spear and distaff sides in the various districts and villages, comrades, friends far and near, and foreign officials for having sent their sympathies to our family, or who attended the memorial services for my wife, Doctor Ta Thi Thanh, and accompanied her to her final resting place.

Vo Chi Cong Letter to New Audio-Visual Center

BK0905124592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 2 May 92

["Text" of State Council Chairman Vo Chi Cong's letter to Humanitarian Audio-Visual and Television Center; date not given]

[Text] Vietnam Red Cross Association recently established a humanitarian audio-visual and television center. Beginning 8 May the center will broadcast twice monthly at the Vietnam Television Station. The center is also producing films on charity work. On this occasion, State Council Chairman Vo Chi Cong sent a letter to greet the center. Following is the text of the letter:

On the occasion of the first public appearance of your humanitarian audio-visual and television center of the Vietnam Red Cross Association, I warmly welcome and congratulate you. For many years now the Vietnam Red Cross Association has engaged in humanitarian relief aid activities in a broad physical and moral area.

On behalf of the Council of State, I warmly commend the association for its work full of love. The Vietnam Red Cross Association was established by President Ho Chi Minh and now has 3 million members who are daily and hourly operating countrywide to perform many charity works that should be regularly reported and encouraged for the benefit of the entire society.

It is practical and necessary to establish this center. Although the humanitarian audio-visual and television center is a small organization of the Vietnam Red Cross Association, it holds a broad social significance in propagating good examples of charity work of all ministries, sectors, and localities, and in criticizing inhuman acts which will help the center achieve its great objectives. The activities of the Vietnam Red Cross Association in general and of the humanitarian audio-visual and television center in particular need the support of all sectors and echelons and other mass organizations both materially and morally. Particularly the Ministries of Finance; Culture, Information, and Sports; and Public Health as well as Vietnam Television and other mass media should create conditions for the center to overcome its initial difficulties.

After this public appearance, I expect workers in the center to operate actively in keeping with the charity policies of our party and state. Finally, I wish you good health and success in satisfactorily carrying out the slogan that every person, every household, and every sector do charity work.

Doan Khue Attends Science, Technology Meeting

BK1105102192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] Last week, the Defense Ministry held a conference to thoroughly understand the seventh party congress viewpoints on science and technology.

General Doan Khue, defense minister; Sen Lt. Gen Dao Dinh Luyen, chief of the Joint General Staff; and Sen Lt. Gen Dang Vu Hiep, deputy chief of the General Department of Politics, presided over the conference.

Also attending the conference were large numbers of command and management cadres, scientists, and technicians in the Army. The chief of the Joint General Staff on behalf of the Defense Ministry once again explained thoroughly to the conferees the major viewpoints on science and technology which were asserted in the seventh party congress resolution. Then, he presented a summarized report on science and technology in the national defense field over the past 10 years from 1981 to 1990.

After asserting that the scientific and technological tasks in the military domain over the past 10 years have considerably contributed to the renovation of instructing, training, and research tasks, and have presented some scientific and national defense strategy arguments for the new situation, the conferees pointed out that the military science and technology tasks have developed slowly and are still weak in several respects and not up to par for the role, position, function, duties, and requirements of the renovation process in the domain of national defense.

The 26 statements of the delegates to the conference supplemented, adjusted, and analyzed quite profoundly the urgency of scientific and technological tasks which the armed forces are facing in the new situation. Science and technology must contribute to resolving the problems raised by the operations of the armed forces. Without science, it is impossible to build a revolutionary, regular, well-seasoned, and gradually modernized army of the people. As a result, besides the country's science and technology, it is necessary to build a special science and technology of the Army.

Science and technology of the Army is an inseparable component of the national science and technology. As a result, the state should formulate a proper investment policy and the Army should have basic and refresher training plans for scientific and technological cadres.

Training, management and employment are three tasks of a closed process for the immediate and distant future. The Army should have a uniform contingent of scientific and technological cadres. The central military party committee should therefore issue promptly a resolution on science and technology in the Army whereas the scientific and technological organizations and cadre contingents in the Army should bring themselves up to par in their tasks in keeping with the requirements of the renovation process which were set forth in the seventh party congress resolution.

Doan Khue Attends Science Awards Ceremony

BK1105102792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] On the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the total victory in the anti-U.S. struggle for national salvation of our people on the morning of 30 April, the Defense Ministry held a ceremony to announce the state decision to award academic titles of the second phase of 1991 to six professors and 74 assistant professors in the Army.

After conferring certificates to six delegates of professors and assistant professors representing the awardees this time, General Doan Khue, Political Bureau member, deputy secretary of the party Central Committee's Military Commission Central Committee, and defense minister, delivered a statement.

He said that the conferment of academic titles this time was all the more significant since it took place at a time when the entire country was commemorating the 17th anniversary of liberation of the south and national reunification, the 38th anniversary of the Dien Bien Phu victory, and the 102d birthday of President Ho Chi Minh. That the state considered in 1991 the conferment of 175 academic titles of professor and assistant—20 professors and 75 assistant professors during the first phase—shows that the party and government have taken a keen interest in and highly valued the scientific, educational, and training contributions as well as scientific research activities of all scientists and professors in the armed forces.

We are very happy that our Army has formed a contingent of scientific cadres of high educational standard. Many comrades have real combat and Army building experiences. These are valuable assets to our Army. It is expected that scientists and professors in the Army would devote all their effort and ability to making worthy contributions to the common cause of the country.

Ex-South Regime Officials Arrested for Subversion

BK1105151292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1159 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] Hanoi, May 11 (AFP)—Two groups composed of officials and military from the old South Vietnamese regime have been arrested for subversive activities, a newspaper said.

An official in Hanoi said those arrested would soon be put on trial in Ho Chi Minh City.

Officials of the clandestine "Vietnamese People's Party" were arrested last June 16 in Ho Chi Minh City attempting to stage demonstrations against the government, the SAIGON GIAI PHONG reported in its May 5 issue which was received here Monday.

There was no explanation of why the news of the arrests was not reported earlier.

The second group led by Doan Van Hoat, a former assistant to the rector at the Buddhist university of Van Hanh in the city, and who published an underground magazine called "Forum of Freedom" calling for the government's overthrow, was dismantled in November 1990, the newspaper said.

Formed in 1975 by a group of ex-army officers, including Lieutenant Trinh Van Thuong who was at the time in a re-education camp, the Vietnamese People's Party was dedicated to "undermining the leadership of the Vietnamese Communist Party and eradicating socialism" in Vietnam, the paper said.

Until their arrest the offenders had contact with Vietnamese circles overseas hostile to the regime and included prisoners and former re-education camp inmates among its ranks, the paper added.

After the fall of the U.S.-backed regime in Saigon in April 1975, more than 100,000 collaborators, both military and civilian, were placed in re-education camps.

According to the newspaper, the two groups had capitalised on the upheavals leading to the collapse of socialism in Eastern Europe and from 1989 intensified their activities, spreading leaflets and writing counterrevolutionary slogans on banknotes.

In June 1991 the party tried to provoke demonstrations in Ho Chi Minh City by exploiting land disputes among the peasants, the newspaper said.

As for the second group, its goal was to create an "opposition movement" before ousting both the communist party and the socialist regime, the newspaper said.

Between July and October 19, many issues of the "Forum of Freedom" were circulated in Ho Chi Minh City calling for the overthrow of the communist party and people power.

Australia

Foreign Minister's Mideast Tour Previewed

BK1105101292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 11 May 92

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] Australia's Foreign Minister Senator Gareth Evans is in Iran, on the first leg of a tour of Middle East countries. It's Senator Evans first tour of the region as foreign minister and his talks will focus on issues such as the Middle East peace process. Multilateral Middle East talks resumed this week at several venues around the world with both Israel and some Arab states boycotting some of the sessions. However, the beginning of Senator Evans' trip in Iran will see the raising of a very sensitive issue—the recent attack by demonstrators on the Iranian embassy in Canberra. Middle east correspondent Tony Hill reports.

[Begin Hill recording] The attack on the Iranian embassy in Canberra will be the most delicate issue for Senator Evans' talks in Tehran. The Iranian Government was angered by Australia's failure to protect the embassy and will certainly raise its continuing concern over the incident with Senator Evans. Iran has already expressed concern of the release on bail of those charged over the incident. Although relations have not been seriously disrupted by the affair, Senator Evans will be seeking to personally smooth over any remaining problems. The foreign minister's visit comes as counting in the second round of Iran's parliamentary elections is indicating a landslide victory for the so-called pragmatists over the country's hardliners. Australian officials say Senator Evans will want to gauge the effect of the victory on the face of President Rafsanjani's program of economic and political reforms that have been opening up Iran to the West.

The foreign minister will also visit Israel, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, countries where the main focus of his talks will be the Middle East peace process. He is also expected to hold talks with Palestine Liberation Organization, the PLO, following the decision by Australia to resume contacts with the PLO, cut since the days of the Gulf crisis. Israel and the Palestinians in the Arab states will present Senator Evans with different assessment of progress in the Middle East peace talks. Israel, now in the middle of campaigning for a general election, has a publicly more optimistic assessment of progress so far. Senator Evans will also be holding talks on arms control and disarmament, an area where Australia plays an active role in international forums. Arms control is the topic for one of five sessions of multilateral Middle East peace talks due to resume this week, a coincidence that could help highlight Australia's talks on arms control with Israel and the Arab states.

However, the resumption of the multilateral talks faces some problems. The multilateral talks on the regional issues of arms control, economic development, water resources, refugees, and the environment bring Israel and the Arab states together with other interested countries and run parallel to Israel's bilateral peace talks with each of its Arab neighbors. Israel is boycotting the talks in Ottawa on refugees and the talks on economic development in Brussels. The Israelis object to the inclusion in the Palestinian delegations of Palestinian exiles from outside the occupied territories. Syria and Lebanon are boycotting all of the multilateral talks. They say they will not take part in the multilaterals until there is real progress in their bilateral peace talks with Israel. The multilateral talks on regional issues will go ahead but like the rest of the peace process, they too will be making only partial progress. [end recording]

Relations With Iran Unaffected by Embassy Attack

BK1205070692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] The Foreign Affairs Department says Australia's relationship with Iran has not been damaged by the attack on the Iranian Embassy in Canberra last month. Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, who was in Tehran, has personally delivered an apology to Iran over the incident.

Department officials are appearing before a Senate committee and are being quizzed about its response to the attack. Acting deputy secretary of the department, Rick Smith:

[Begin Smith recording] The Iranians were, of course, very concerned about and disappointed by the incident, but I believe they have been satisfied with the government's response and handling of it since 6 April, and both in Teheran and Canberra the signs to date have been clearly that they do not want the incident to damage the bilateral relationship, which, for both countries, is an important one. [end recording]

Opening of Tibet Information Office Considered

BK0905001692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] The Australian Government is to consider the creation of a Tibet Information Office in Australia. Australia's prime minister, Paul Keating, agreed to give sympathetic consideration to such an office during talks in Canberra with the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama.

Mr. Keating held his private meeting with the exiled leader despite representations from the Chinese Government such talks should not take place. The prime minister told the Dalai Lama that Australia would be forthright about speaking up on human rights abuses in Tibet. Mr. Keating said Australia recognized Chinese sovereignty over Tibet, but would encourage more autonomy for Tibet and respect for Tibetan culture and human rights.

Evans Supports Slovene Position on Succession

AU0605200692 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1700 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Slovene Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel held talks with Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans in

Canberra today. The Australian minister assured Dimitrij Rupel that Australia supports the Slovene stance; namely, that all Yugoslav republics are the successors of the socialist Yugoslavia.

At the same time Evans promised active help in Slovenia's efforts to join international organizations as well as in the so-called lobbying of the ASEAN and South Pacific countries.

Rupel also held talks Ross Free, minister of Science and Technology, Finance Minister (Dickenson), and Gerry Hand, minister of Immigration, Local Government, and Ethnic Affairs.

Fiji

Rabuka Sees Merit in National Unity Government

BK1105092092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] The president of the Fiji Political Party, Major General Sitiveni Rabuka, has said he sees a lot of merit in a government of national unity and it might be the way to go in the future.

He was speaking in response to a call from the National Federation Party leader, (Jairam Reddi), for a government of national unity. Gen. Rabuka said he had in fact suggested a government of national unity a few years ago but he warned that if the concept was to succeed, Fijians, Indians, and other voters should be prepared to accommodate one another's views and aspirations.

Gen. Rabuka carried out two coups in 1987 which led to a new constitution in 1990 ensuring Fijian dominance of the nation's political system.

The first general elections under the new constitution is to be held late this month.

Papua New Guinea

Malaysia To Provide Military Training, Equipment

BK0605094492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 6 May 92

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] Malaysia has agreed to provide training and equipment to the Papua New Guinea [PNG] Defense Force. Following a three- day meeting in Port Moresby, the secretary general of the Malaysian Ministry of Defense, Datuk Nazaruddin bin Bahari, says Malaysia has the expertise to provide training to PNG troops, police, and prison officers on how to counter both internal and external threats to security. Brian Abbott reports from Port Moresby that closer defense relations between PNG and Malaysia are part of government policy to reduce PNG's reliance on Australian defense aid.

[Begin recording] [Abbott] Malaysia and PNG signed a memorandum of understanding on defense cooperation last year. The talks in Port Moresby this week were to flesh out the initial agreement and set the guidelines for future cooperation. Datuk Nazaruddin bin Bahari and his PNG counterpart, Secretary for Defense Peter Peipul, and senior officials from both countries explored how best Malaysia could help PNG.

[Bahari] Basically first would be providing the training for the military personnel and then the next thing is to provide equipment, guns or ammunition, if they feel there are other needs that they would like to make available to them.

[Abbott] What specific areas of training would you be looking at?

[Bahari] We will look into antiguerrilla training, training for senior officers for combat. Whatever they would need they have to tell us exactly and identify them.

[Abbott] Datuk Nazaruddin says Malaysia has special expertise dealing with insurgency and could provide valuable help to PNG in the fight against the Bougainville Revolutionary Army.

[Bahari] We take it as a battle to win the hearts and minds of the people so that they would not provide support to the insurgents, that they are with the government. That takes a long time, that takes very skillful maneuvering. That requires a lot of people with the best of training, to sometimes even manipulate people's thinking to our side, to the government side, whereas the insurgents normally use terror tactics to get the support from the people. And that's the only way, that's the only thing they have. But we conquer that by making the people understand that they have much more to gain from those being with the government than with the insurgents.

[Abbott] Both Malaysia and PNG are beneficiaries of Australian defense aid. The PNG defense force, though, has more or less depended on aid from Canberra. In 1990, Port Moresby found out there were strings attached. Canberra placed restrictions on the use of Australian-supplied helicopters after they were used as gunships in the Bougainville conflict and to dump the bodies of alleged rebels at sea. That was a catalyst for PNG to pursue vigorously a more independent defense line. [end recording]

Rebels Condemn Growing Military Ties

BK0705061892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] The secessionist authorities on Bougainville have condemned Papua New Guinea's [PNG] growing military ties with Malaysia. The chairman of the self-proclaimed interim government on Bougainville, Joseph Kabui, criticized Port Moresby for turning to Asia to solve what he called a South Pacific and Melanesian issue.

He was speaking following a visit to Papua New Guinea by a senior Malaysian Defense Ministry official, Nazaruddin Bin Bahari.

Accusing the PNG Government of seeking a military rather than a negotiated settlement to the Bougainville crisis, Mr. Kabui appealed to the South Pacific Forum nations to prevent what he termed another East Timor.

At the end of three days of talks in Port Moresby, Datuk Nazaruddin said Malaysia had offered to provide psychological warfare training for the PNG Defense Force. He said Malaysian techniques in winning people's support against guerrilla groups had been successful and could be adapted to the Bougainville situation.

Malaysia had also offered other military training and to supply small arms, ammunition, and uniforms. The PNG secretary for defense, Peter (Pepal) said the closer cooperation with Malaysia was part of PNG's attempts to reduce its reliance on Australia for defense aid.

Namaliu Condemns BRA for Rejecting Medicines

BK0805095892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] Papua New Guinea's [PNG] Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu has condemned the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] for refusing to allow Red Cross medical supplies into areas it controls. He described it as a cruel, callous, and criminal act.

Mr. Namaliu said the BRA was willing to put at risk the welfare of innocent people in central and southern Bougainville for its political and propaganda purposes.

Brian Abbott reports the BRA deferred the delivery of Red Cross medical supplies, saying it feared their delivery would be used as a cover by the PNG Defense Force to launch a major offensive against the BRA. Mr. Namaliu denied any such plan.

BRA To Reconsider Ban

BK1105074392 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] In Papua New Guinea [PNG], the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] says it may reconsider its ban on the transport of Red Cross medical supplies to central and southern areas of Bougainville if new conditions are met. The stringent conditions would have to be met by the PNG Government, the defense force, and the Red Cross.

The suggestion was made in the letter to the head of the PNG Red Cross, (Loani Hanou), by the BRA humanitarian coordinator in Solomon Islands, (Martin Meriori). The letter says that medical supplies should be flown to Arawa in central Bougainville rather than transported by road. Mr. (Meriori) also demands that there be no surveillance by air or sea at central and southern Bougainville on the supplies that it delivers. He also demands a full list of the medical supplies. In return, the BRA would guarantee the safety of the aircraft.

Melanesian Summit Postponed Indefinitely

BK0805075992 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 8 May 92

[Text] Papua New Guinea [PNG] has announced the indefinite deferment of the seventh Melanesian Spearhead Group summit. The meeting was originally planned for the second week of April, but was postponed when Solomon Islands refused to attend because PNG has not apologized for two raids on Solomons' territory by PNG troops in March.

The summit was rescheduled for next week, but the Solomon Islands had refused to attend because of the continuing difficulties in relations between Honiara and Port Moresby over Bougainville.

Prime Minister Namaliu says despite the deferral, PNG is fully committed to Melanesian solidarity and cooperation. PNG has advised the prime ministers of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and the leader of the pro-independence FLNKS [Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front] in New Caledonia of the decision.

Mr. Namaliu says the Melanesian leaders will convene at a time convenient to all members of the group in the near future.

Solomon Islands

More PNG Defense Force Raids Alleged

BK1005085892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 10 May 92

[Text] Solomon Islands police are investigating reports that the Papua New Guinea [PNG] defense force had again crossed into Solomon's territory and raided settlements. People from (Harapa) village in the Shortland group of islands, just off the southern tip of Bougainville, claimed a small raiding party from the PNG defense force crossed into Solomon's territory on Friday.

(Harapa) village people claimed that the soldiers captured two of their men, who were fishing for sharks, and they had not been seen since. Earlier, cross border raids by PNG troops in March led to Solomons Government to ban all contacts with the national government in Port Moresby until after PNG's elections next month.

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